

Festival Programme 2026



Saturday 31st January
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th February

www.leicestermusicfest.com

Registered Charity Number 1186629

About Leicester MusicFest

Our Aims

- To help young people access inspiring music-making and education.
- To nurture emerging talent, and to provide a supportive atmosphere in which all musicians can enjoy performing.
- To widen access to music by organising inspiring professional performances with free or subsidised tickets.
- To provide a performance platform for amateur musicians at all stages of their musical journey.
- To foster a culture of musical discovery and co-operation by running a wide variety of events within a single festival.
- To encourage sharing of ideas and resources, bringing together the local musical community.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our Patrons and Friends:

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Event Sponsors

Organ events:	The Royal College of Organists
Gala Concert:	The Rotary Club of Blaby
Venue hire:	The Edith Murphy Foundation
Admin support/Core costs:	The Golsoncott Foundation
	The Scops Arts Trust
	The Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation
Forest Gamelan Project:	The Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons Charity
Schools Outreach:	The Martin Trust

Thank you to Head of Music Liam Leonard, Principal Mathew Calen and the staff and students of English Martyrs' School for their generous support for this event

MusicFest Management Team

John Gull (Chairman), Roxanne Gull (Artistic Director), Melanie Settle (Treasurer),
Avalon Summerfield (Events Coordinator), Jonathan Jarvis (Webmaster),
Christopher Hiam (Schools Liaison), James Trivett (Tech Lead),
Francesca Burbela (Publicity)

Welcome to Leicester MusicFest 2026

Welcome to an extra special Festival, as we celebrate the milestone of Leicester MusicFest's 10th Anniversary!

It's been quite a journey to reach this point, starting from very small beginnings, achieving charitable status, navigating through the pandemic (and many other lesser challenges!) and evolving from a single annual event into a year-round music outreach charity.

Leicester MusicFest has been built on huge contributions of time and expertise from a highly committed team of volunteers. We could never have imagined at the outset how many thousands of hours would be given by volunteers to make everything happen: venue staffing, accounting, setup and logistics, catering, website, entry system, publicity, instrument deliveries and so many other things - too many to list! It's thanks to these contributions that the charity has been able to grow and develop, even in a very challenging funding climate.

The other pillar of Leicester MusicFest is the wonderful community of musicians of all ages, along with parents, teachers, supporters and music lovers, who have come together over the past ten years to make music and support music-making at Leicester MusicFest. You have brought to life something that started as a very small idea, and now has a momentum and personality of its own.

As always, we have a packed programme of competitions, workshops, masterclasses and concerts on offer, and look forward to coming together at Leicester MusicFest 2026 to celebrate a decade of music education, live performance, community and friendship.

John, Roxanne, Avalon, Jonathan, Christopher & Melanie (Leicester MusicFest Trustees)



Support us!



Help us reach our £5,000 target!

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations, we have launched a JustGiving page to help us continue our work widening access to music education.

Please consider supporting, and sharing with friends and family.

To donate, scan the QR code or head over to:

www.justgiving.com/page/leicester-musicfest

Scan to donate:



For more information about Leicester MusicFest 2026 and our Outreach Programme, visit:
www.leicestermusicfest.com

JustGiving™

10 years of
Leicester MusicFest
Perform. Educate. Inspire.

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(All For Music, Leicester)

Thursday evening- Instrumental lessons, String Group,
Woodwind Groups, Orchestra and Theory
Monday evening- Lessons, Choir and Theory
Friday morning- Adult Sinfonia

Sacred Heart, Club room,
off Mere Close, Leicester, LE5 3HH

Scan the code to enquire-
leoniesmithmusic@gmail.com
www.allformusic.org.uk



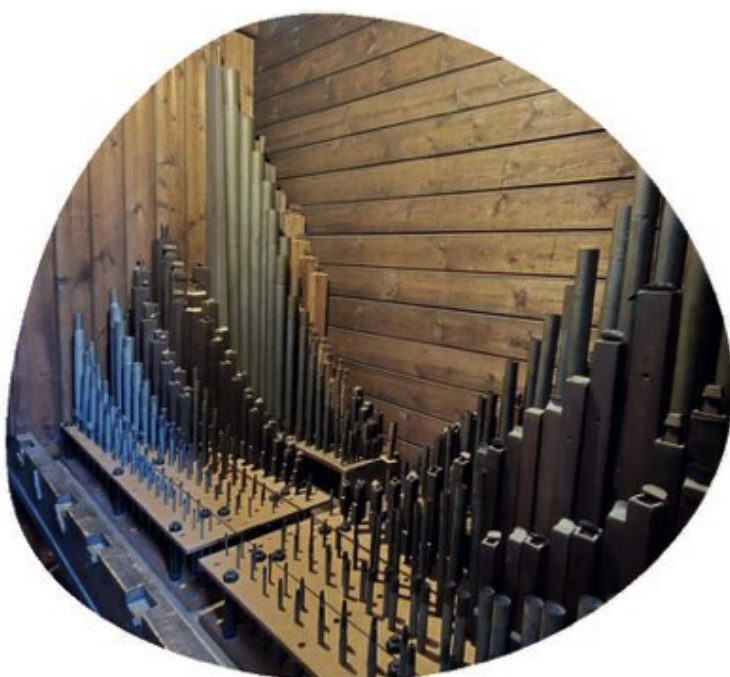
Timetable of Events - Saturday 31st January

Organ Events

St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street

Time	Event
11:00	Competition Class O1
12:00	Competition Class O2
14:00	Organ Masterclass with Joseph McHardy
15:45	STELLOS Workshop with Aric Prentice
17:00	Play the Organ! A chance to try out the newly-rebuilt Taylor pipe organ in short guided sessions

Special thanks to the Royal College of Organists for supporting our organ events, and to Leicester Cathedral for providing recital opportunities for our winners.





Folk music workshops, sessions and events for musicians of all levels, ages and instrumentation

Birmingham Folk are passionate about creating accessible spaces for people to share, learn and play folk music from across the globe.

Find an event for you and join us in making music together!



www.birminghamfolk.co.uk

  **@birminghamfolk1**

Timetable of Events - Saturday 14th February

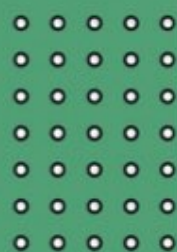
Time	Event	Location
09:00	Competition P1a - Foundation Piano Solo	MU1
	Competition P1b - Foundation Piano Solo	MU2
09:10	Competition P3 - Intermediate Piano Solo	Auditorium
10:30	Competition P5 - Foundation Piano Recital	MU1
10:50	Competition P4 - Advanced Piano Solo	Auditorium
11:00	Class J3 - Just For Fun (Senior)	MU2
11:45	<i>Express Yourself - Musical Fun for all the Family</i> with Kirsty Body	Activity Studio
11:50	Competition P7 - Intermediate Piano Recital	MU1
13:15	Competition P8 - Advanced Piano Recital	Auditorium
13:30	Competition P2 - Elementary Piano Solo	MU1
	Class J1 - Just For Fun (First Steps)	MU2
	<i>Express Yourself - Djembe Drumming</i> with Kirsty Body	Activity Studio
15:10	Class J2 - Just For Fun (Junior)	MU2
15:30	Competition P6 - Elementary Piano Recital	MU1
17:30	Piano Masterclass with Libby Burgess	Auditorium



KIBWORTH YOUTH BAND

PART OF THE KIBWORTH BAND

For brass and percussion players of
Grade 2 standard or above



- Free Instrument Loan
- Suitable for Brass and Percussion
- Rehearse in our purpose built bandroom
- Expert Tuition
- Great Experience and fun environment
- Opportunity to move on to our senior band as you progress
- Rehearsals Monday Evenings
 - 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Subscriptions only £10 per month*



07800 504882



www.kibworthband.co.uk

*Funding and concessions available for those in need

Timetable of Events - Sunday 15th February

Time	Event	Location
09:00	Competition S5 - Advanced Stage & Screen Solo (Junior) Competition S2 - Intermediate Art Song Solo (Junior)	MU1 MU2
09:30	Competition S8 - Advanced Stage & Screen Solo (Senior)	Auditorium
10:30	Competition S3 - Advanced Art Song Solo (Junior) Competition S6 - Intermediate Solo Song (Senior)	MU1 MU2
11:30	Competition S7 - Advanced Art Song Solo (Senior)	MU1
12:00	Competition S4a - Intermediate Stage & Screen Solo (Junior)	MU2
13:45	<i>Come and Sing! Carmina Burana Workshop</i> with Helen Smee	Auditorium
14:00	Competition S4b - Intermediate Stage & Screen Solo (Junior) Competition S1 - Elementary Solo Song (Junior)	MU1 MU2
18:00	<i>10th Anniversary Gala Concert featuring competition winners and a performance of Carmina Burana</i>	Auditorium



*The Gospel Train with
Helen Smee 2024*

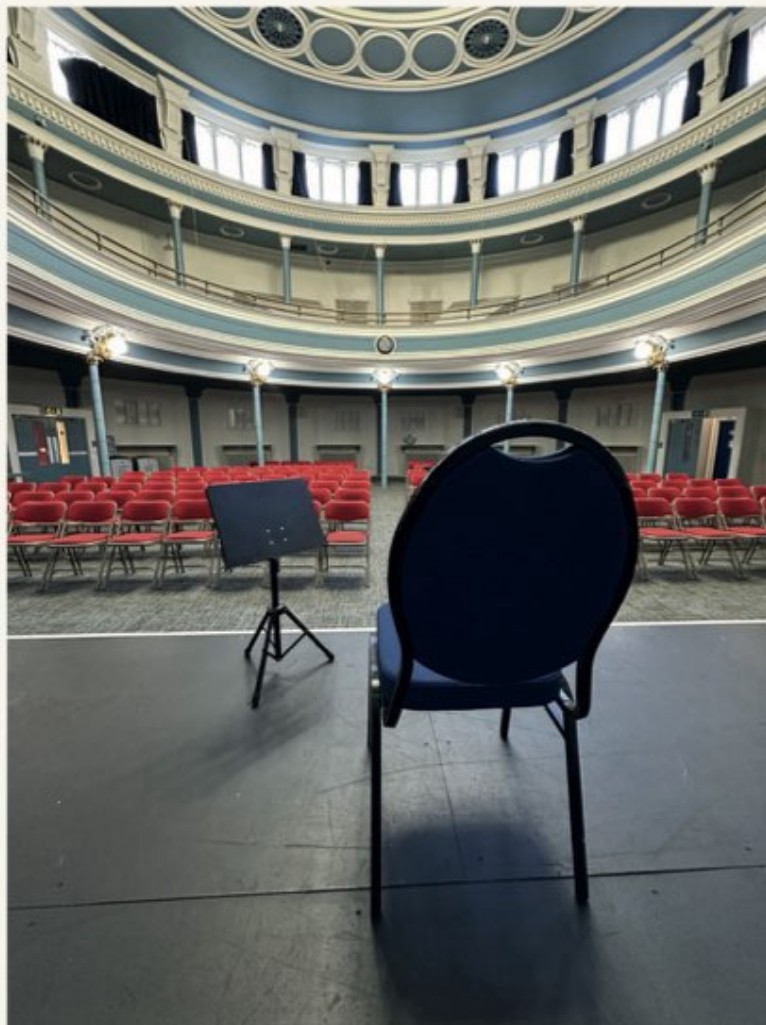


Leicester
International
Music
Festival

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS 2026 THURSDAYS, 1-2PM @HANSOM HALL

'Bringing the world's finest musicians to Leicester...'

Fenella Humphreys - Nicholas Daniel - Martin Roscoe
Mahan Esfahani - Fibonacci Quartet - Guildhall Winds
Emily Sun - Anna Tilbrook - Amy Harman - Antonio Oyarzabal



NICHOLAS DANIEL
(ARTISTIC DIRECTOR)



Leicester
City Council





**Leicester
Symphony
Orchestra**

In the community



**Judgemeadow Community College,
Marydene Drive, Leicester, LE5 6HP**

**Saturday 7th
February 2026 at 3pm**

**Bring
your bear
to join in
the fun.**

Paddington Bear's First Concert

with other favourite fairy tales from Ravel's Mother Goose

Conductor: Dexter Drown

Leader: Catherine Cole

Narrator: Mr Shay - Leicester's Poet Laureate

- **Chappell Paddington Bear's First Concert**
- **Ravel Mother Goose Suite**

TICKET PRICES:

Adult price **£12**, Children **£6**

Family tickets (2 adults and 3 children) **£36**
and 2-4-1 carers scheme. Suggested ages
for children 5-11

Tickets from www.leicestersymphonyorchestra.co.uk

Unreserved seating. Doors open at 2.30.



**Enter our
poetry competition
to introduce one
of the Fairy Tales
for Mother
Goose.**

**making
music**

Workshops & Masterclasses

Organ Masterclass with Joseph McHardy

Saturday 31st January 14:00 - 15:30

St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street

One of the UK's leading keyboardists, Joseph McHardy (Christ Church, Chelsea) returns to Leicester MusicFest to work with five young organ students on the newly-rebuilt Taylor pipe organ at Jarrom Street. Topics include technique, expression and registration.

STELLOS Workshop - How does the pipe organ work? with Aric Prentice

Saturday 31st January 15:45 - 16:45

St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street

Aric Prentice (Director of Music, Lincoln Cathedral) leads a fun-packed, interactive workshop exploring the inner workings of the pipe organ. Meet the STELLOS, a marvellous contraption which demonstrates the organ's mechanical components, and work together to assemble the instrument and hear it come alive! Participants of all ages are welcome to attend this hilariously educational session as participants or observers.

Play the Organ!

Saturday 31st January 17:00 - 18:00

St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street

Players of any level (including complete beginners!) are invited to sign up for a guided session, where they can try out the newly-rebuilt three-manual Taylor pipe organ at St Andrew's, Jarrom Street, under the supervision of one of our in-house organists. View the organ specification on page 40. Observers and participants of all ages are welcome.

Express Yourself Workshops - Musical Fun for all the Family / Djembe Drumming with Kirsty Body

Saturday 14th February 11:45 - 12:45 & 13:30 - 14:30

Activity Studio

Musical Fun for all the Family Kirsty Body (Harmonia Music) returns to Leicester MusicFest, bringing her zany blend of musical games, singing, movement, bouncy balls, wooden spoons and much, much more! With plenty to enjoy for all ages, this workshop is particularly suitable for families with young children.

Djembe Drumming Kirsty Body (Harmonia Music) leads a dynamic workshop centred around learning a traditional West African drum pattern on the djundjun and djembes. This workshop is for adults and children aged 9+. No experience needed.

Workshops & Masterclasses

Piano Masterclass with Libby Burgess

Saturday 14th February 17:30 - 19:00

English Martyrs' School Auditorium

Renowned pianist and educator, Libby Burgess, works with pianists on a variety of repertoire, addressing technical and expressive elements in her characteristic warm style.

Come and Sing! *Carmina Burana* with Helen Smee

Sunday 15th February

English Martyrs' School Auditorium

13:30: Sign in

13:45 - 15:15: Workshop

16:00 - 17:30: Full rehearsal

18:00: Gala Concert Performance

Come and join a roof-raising workshop and performance of Carl Orff's celebrated work, *Carmina Burana*. A giant chorus of festival-goers, staff and local schoolchildren will be joined by top-notch international soloists, two grand pianos and an army of percussionists. Directed by MusicFest veteran Helen Smee (Southwark Cathedral).



Organ building workshop
with Aric Prentice 2020

Try out an instrument today!



Have you ever wanted to try playing a new instrument?



Come and visit our 'Try an Instrument' Stall where you can find out more about our Instrument Rehoming Scheme and try out any of the instruments on display.



To find out more about our Instrument Rehoming Scheme, visit:
www.leicestermusicfest.com/instrument-rehoming
Or you can scan here



Guidance for Visitors

Safeguarding

All Leicester MusicFest personnel wear an official Festival lanyard or T-shirt, and enhanced-DBS-checked adults will be present at each session. All teachers, parents, guardians and carers are asked to report to anyone wearing a Festival lanyard any concerns relating to verbal or physical abuse of any child or young person. All reported incidents will be taken seriously by the Festival team, and will be documented and handled as swiftly as possible in accordance with best practice advice published by the British and International Federation of Festivals. A copy of our Safeguarding Policy is available for inspection upon request at the Front Desk.

Supervision of Minors

For the duration of the Festival all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival sessions, and at lunchtime and during any breaks.

Photography

No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording of children and young people is allowed at Leicester MusicFest. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photographs to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child is not included in photographs taken by the Official Photographer.

Adjudicators

In the competitions, the Adjudicator's decision is final. Please do not attempt to discuss any decision with an Adjudicator during or after any competition class, unless invited to do so by the Adjudicator. Any complaint about the conduct of an Adjudicator should be made in writing to the Chairman, John Gull, at 1 Eastwood Road, Leicester LE2 8DD or via email to info@leicestermusicfest.com within seven days of the Festival.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone and any other electronic devices (such as wristwatches) are completely silenced while you are in the Festival building. Competition Adjudicators may require any performance to be restarted in the event of electronic interruption. Please bear in mind that a performer may find it demoralising to see members of the audience distracted by their mobile phones.

Competition Audience

In the interests of smooth running, and hearty applause for all candidates, visitors are requested to remain seated where possible for the duration of any competition class which they attend.

Locations

This year our Festival is spread across two locations -
Organ events (31st January): St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street
All other events (14th & 15th February): English Martyrs' Catholic School



St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street, Leicester LE2 7DH
English Martyrs' Catholic School, Anstey Lane, Leicester LE4 0FJ

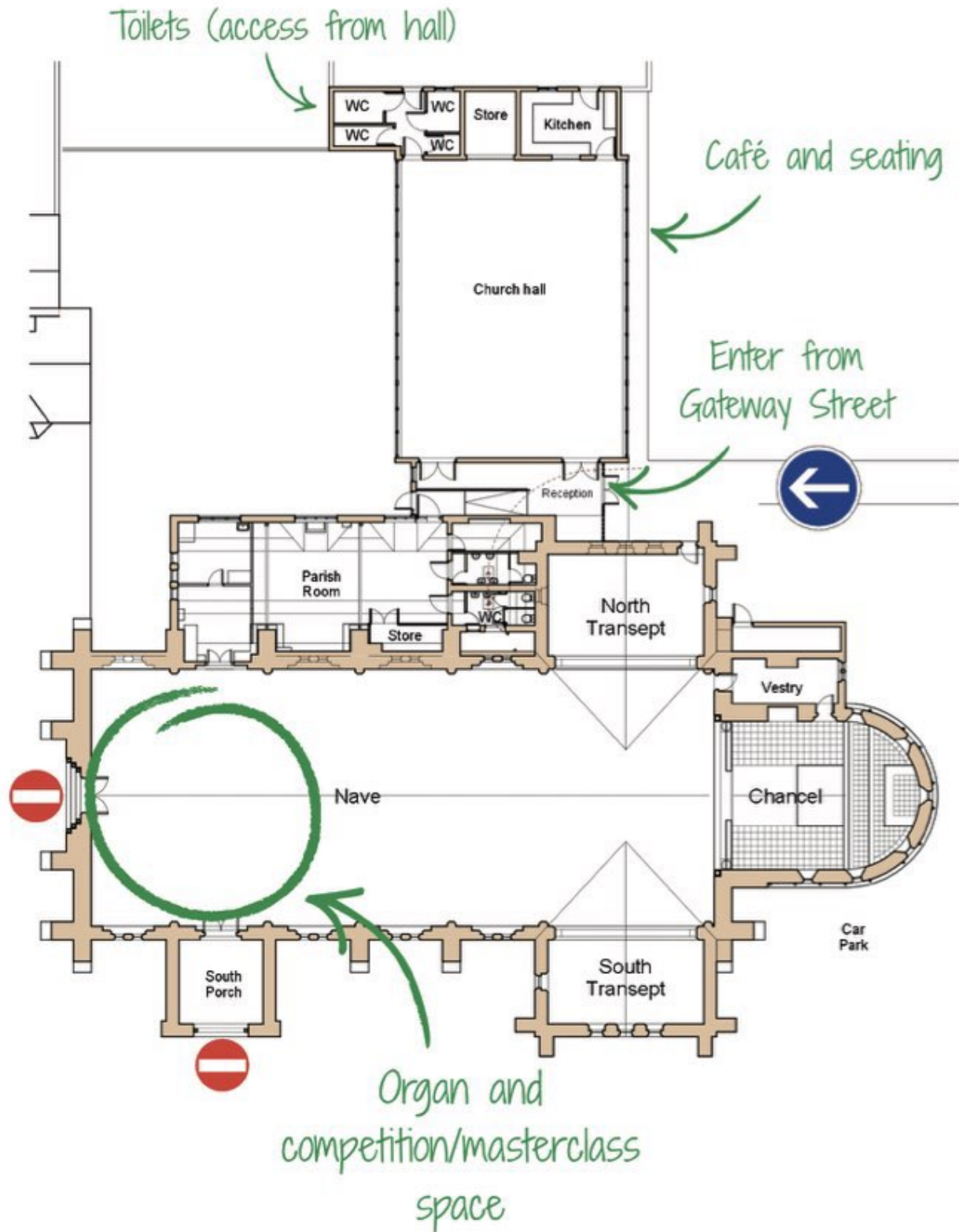


St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street

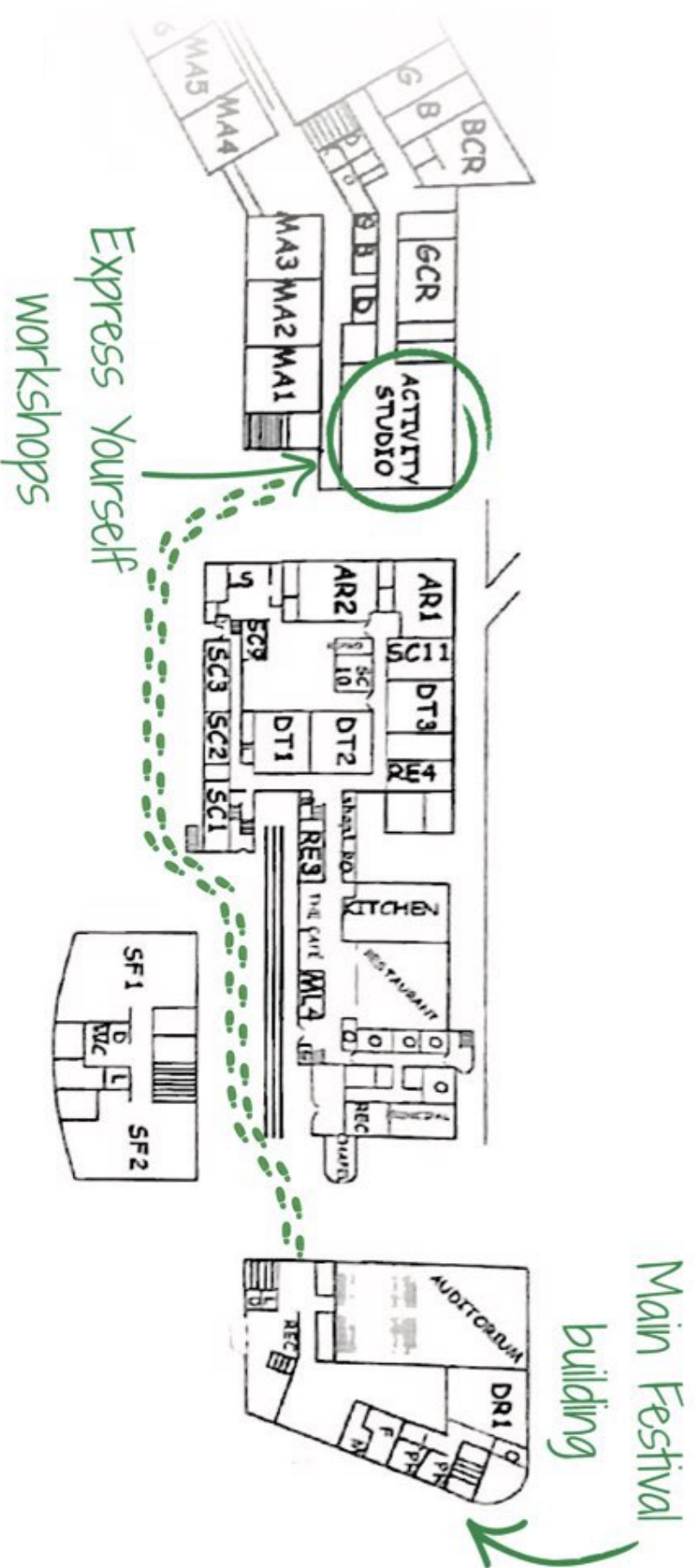


English Martyrs' Catholic School

St Andrew's Church Map

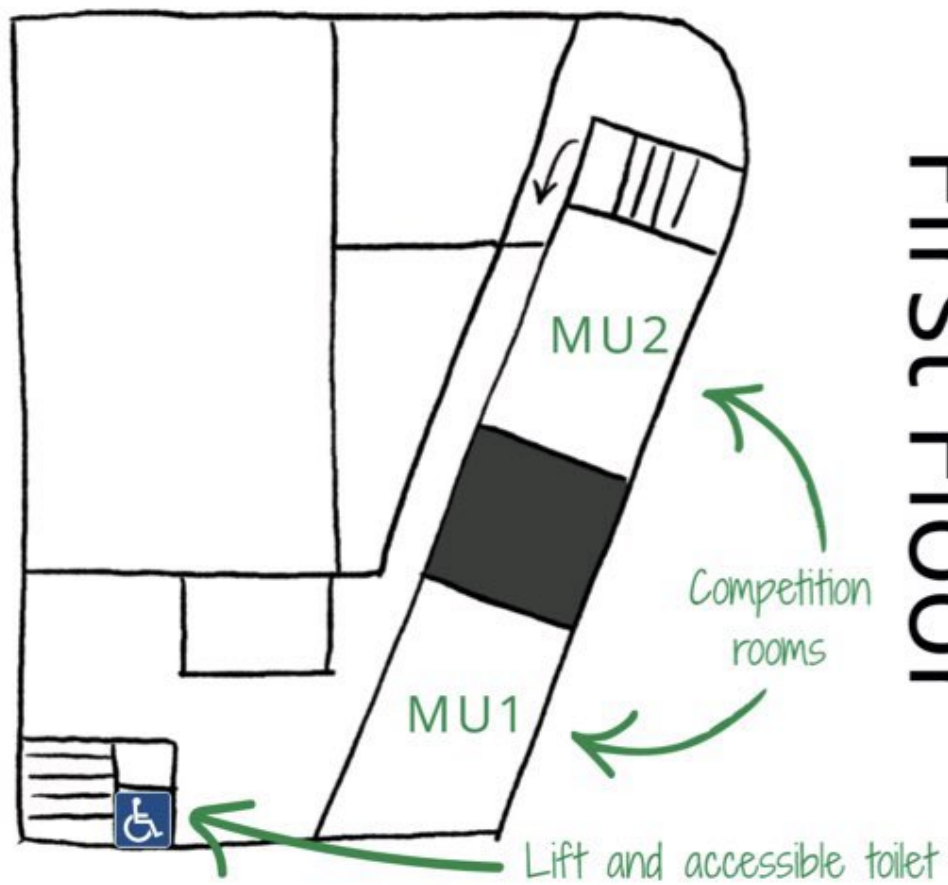


Map of English Martyrs' School

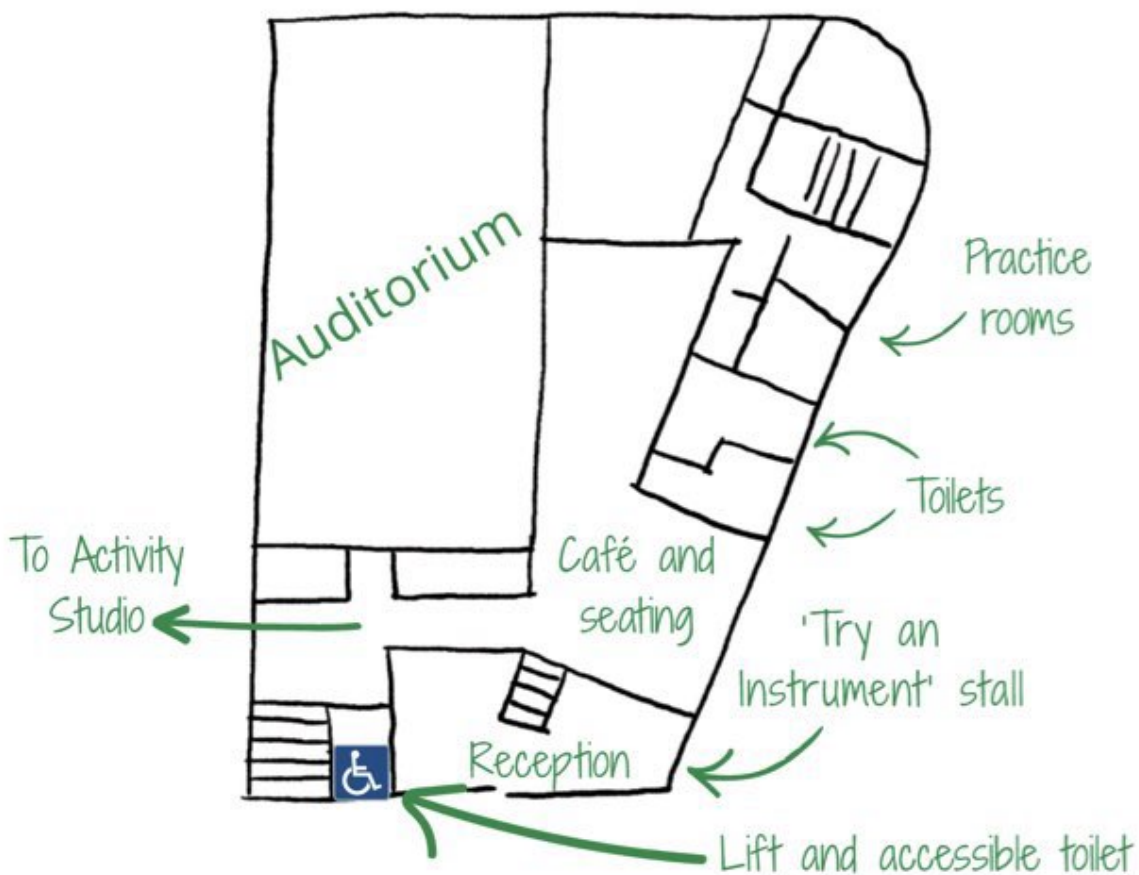


English Martyrs' School Floor Plan

First Floor



Ground Floor



STANLEY OPERA PROUDLY PRESENT



THE MAGIC FLUTE

THE FABULOUS FAIRY TALE BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
ENGLISH VERSION BY JEREMY SAMS

HINCKLEY CONCORDIA THEATRE
22ND, 23RD, 24TH & 25TH APRIL 7.30

TICKETS : ADULTS £18 UNDER-16s £10

Online booking OPEN NOW: concordiatheatre.co.uk/the-magic-flute

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.co.uk

How to support the Festival

Leicester MusicFest is organised by a small but dedicated team of volunteers. The Festival can only take place thanks to the kind generosity of patrons and donors. Charitable funding is essential to ensure that the Festival can continue to provide valuable music performance and education opportunities for years to come.

Become a Friend or Patron

Friends make a minimum annual donation of £50, for which they receive a credit in the Festival programme (subject to their consent). Patrons make a minimum annual donation of £120, giving them complimentary refreshments throughout the Festival, and a credit in the Festival programme (subject to their consent).

Donate a Trophy

We are hugely grateful to the many generous donors who have sponsored new trophies for our competition classes. Many of our trophies have been donated with a dedication in mind, in memory of a loved one or in tribute to a living person or organisation. We have a small number of classes remaining without a sponsored trophy, and welcome enquiries from new trophy donors.

Sponsor an Event

All of our Competition Classes, Concerts, Workshops and Masterclasses welcome event sponsors. Sponsors can receive free advertising in our Festival Programme and on our giant display screens in the venue. If you or your business is interested in sponsoring an event, please get in touch.

Regular Giving

Pledge a small amount each month to support our charity from as little as £2.50 per month. Regular giving is managed via the *Patreon* platform.
www.patreon.com/LeicesterMusicFest

Volunteer

The Festival relies on a large team of volunteers to ensure smooth running of events throughout the Festival. We also need volunteers to assist with our Outreach strands throughout the year. If you could spare just a few hours to help us, we would love to hear from you.

Get in touch

Email: info@leicestermusicfest.com

Telephone: 07721 030173

Write to us: Leicester MusicFest, 1 Eastwood Road, Leicester LE2 8DD.

Celebrating 10 years



2016

Leicester MusicFest
is founded



2017

Our first festival



2018

First community
performance:
Dido and Aeneas

2021

Presented a
full festival online
during COVID



2019

Achieved registered
charity status



2020

Start of our schools outreach
work through *Carmina Burana*

of Leicester MusicFest

2026

10th Anniversary Festival



2022

James Trivett created the online entry system



2025

Record number of festival attendees



2024

The first Forest Gamelan outdoor music classroom was installed



2023

First Leicester Pro Arte Singers Concert for the Instrument Rehoming Scheme

Meet the Professionals

Leicester MusicFest is delighted to welcome this year's adjudicators and workshop leaders, who are all outstanding professional performing artists and teachers.

Joseph McHardy (Organ)

Joseph McHardy was born in Scotland to Congolese and English parents. At the University of Edinburgh, he fell in love with the harpsichords in the university's Russell Collection, one of the most extensive collections of historic keyboard instruments in Europe. He then studied harpsichord at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and spent a decade as a harpsichordist and conductor, working at opera houses from Berlin to Madrid, and performing and recording with ensembles including the Berlin Philharmonic, Le Concert d'Astrée and The Gabrieli Consort and Players.

From 2017 to 2023, he was Director of Music of HM Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, leading the choir which counts Tallis, Byrd and Purcell amongst its former members. During his tenure, he prepared the choir for many historic events, including the State Funeral of Elizabeth II, and the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. Since 2023, he has returned to Christ Church, Chelsea, where he is responsible for the 1779 England and Russell organ, rebuilt by Flentrop in 2010.



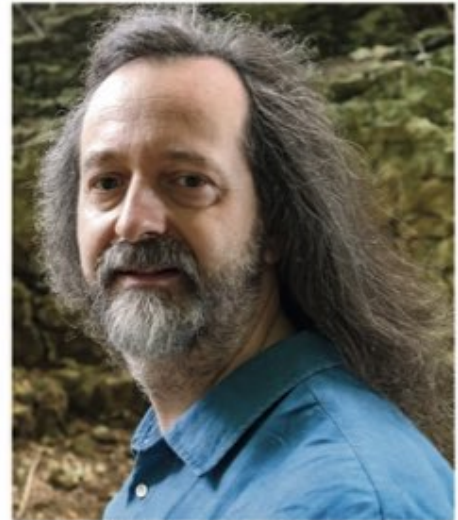
He has conducted the BBC Singers in two broadcasts, giving the premiere of Ben Ponniah's *Maida Vale Service* in 2021, and he appears regularly on BBC Radio 3 as a reviewer and presenter, including for a documentary about US civil rights leader Bayard Rustin's use of Early Music in activism.

Passionate about Black History, he has recently completed a recording project directing Chineke! Voices in the music of Vicente Lusitano, the first composer racialised as Black to bring their music to print in Europe, and his transcription, with Arne Spohr, of Lusitano's complete Latin motets is due for publication later this year by A-R Editions. He has contributed to the revision of Lusitano's entry in *Grove Music Online*, and has written for *The Guardian*, as well as giving interviews to BBC Radio 3, RTÉ Lyric FM, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio, and the Trilloquy podcast.

Since 2023, he has combined his freelance career with that of Director of Music at St Paul's Girls' School in London, a post he holds in succession to Adine O'Neill, Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Nicola LeFanu.

Jonty Nowell (Piano)

Jonty Nowell trained at the City of Leeds College of Music in Jazz and Contemporary Music, studied for his Master's in Composition at Nottingham University, and now works in and around Lincoln. He is active as a composer and performer in a variety of genres, from classical to jazz and folk music. Jonty combines his role as Director of Music at Burton Hathow Preparatory School with a busy freelance schedule. As a published composer and songwriter he has had premieres in Lincoln and Canterbury cathedrals and the Royal Albert Hall, among other places. He is also in demand locally as an accompanist and piano teacher.



Simon Lane (Piano)

Simon Lane has gained recognition for his compelling and sensitive performances and regularly collaborates with some of the world's most exciting musicians.

Alongside frequent performances in London's Wigmore Hall, Simon has appeared in venues such as the Berlin Philharmonie and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and more widely across Europe and North America. Festival engagements include the Bachfest Leipzig, La Festival de Musique de Menton, the Dubrovnik and Ljubljana Summer Festivals, and the Leeds Lieder, Ryedale and Lichfield Festivals in the UK.

Since 2016 Simon has been Head of Keyboard at Whitgift School in Croydon, and he has recently been appointed Associate Professor of Accompaniment at the Norwegian Academy of Music (NMH) in Oslo, Norway.



Among other early influences on his career, Simon is indebted to the late Mark Ray, to whom he owes a large share of his love of music.

Did you know? Leicester MusicFest has rehomed over 400 instruments since 2023 through the Instrument Rehoming Scheme!

Instrument Rehoming Scheme



Mishaan
with his new
guitar

Donate an instrument

If you have an instrument of any kind which you would like to donate, we would love to hear from you!



I need an instrument

If you are serious about playing your instrument, but can't afford to buy or hire one of a suitable quality (or at all), we may be able to help!



Nyssa
with her
full-sized cello



Libby Burgess (Piano)

Pianist Libby Burgess is well-known on concert stages across Britain, playing regularly in the country's major halls and festivals and on Radio 3. As both song specialist and chamber musician, Libby thrives on an unusually wide repertoire, and takes inspiration from the breadth of musicians with whom she works. Equally respected for her programming and curational skills, she is the founding Artistic Director of New Paths Music, where she has quickly been recognised for the striking creative tone of her programming. From 2018 to 2022 she was additionally Co-Artistic Director with Martin Roscoe of the Beverley Chamber Music Festival.



Libby's recent and forthcoming calendar includes a Radio 3 broadcast recital with Ailish Tynan from Oxford Lieder; concerts at Wigmore Hall with Alessandro Fisher, Leeds Lieder with Claire Barnett-Jones and Aldeburgh Festival with Ben Hulett; performances of *The Rite of Spring* with Chris Hopkins; a series performing the complete Beethoven cello sonatas with five different cellists; and broadcasts with the BBC Singers. Working often with living composers, Libby has most recently premiered Stephen McNeff's *Three Pieces for Piano* and, with regular collaborator baritone Marcus Farnsworth, *Everything Grows Extravagantly* by Cheryl Frances-Hoad – selected by *The Times* as a highlight of the year.

Libby is sought after as a vocal coach; she sat on the panel for Oxford Lieder's Young Artist Platform 2022, and mentored for the 2023 SongEasel Young Artist Programme. The seeds of her love for working with voices were sown as organ scholar at Christ Church, Oxford, where she read music, followed by postgraduate piano studies at the Royal Academy of Music. Libby was formerly Head of Keyboard at Eton College, is in demand as speaker and writer, and loves working in outreach contexts that seek to overcome barriers and share the power of music with everyone.

Currently undertaking a nationwide Bach marathon, 'Project 48', Libby is performing the whole of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* ('The 48') in every one of England's 48 counties, in venues ranging from cathedrals and concert halls to houses, schools, barns and gardens. To date the project has raised over £30,000 for Help Musicians, Live Music Now, Future Talent and Youth Music.

Aaron Alexander (Singing)

Aaron is a passionate vocal coach offering personalised, one-on-one lessons either in-person in London or online via Zoom.

His clients have appeared in West End, Touring, and International productions, including *The Lion King*, *Wicked*, *Top Hat*, *King Lear*, *Clueless*, *Back to the Future*, *Trompe L'Oeil*, *9 to 5*, *Gypsy*, *The Witches*, *Becoming Nancy*, *Cabaret*, *Newsies*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Chorus Line*, *&Juliet*, *Heathers*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Hamilton*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Hairspray*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Come Alive!*, *Chicago*, *Priscilla*, *Grease*, *Beetlejuice*, *Fame*, *Tina*, *Mary Poppins*, *Frankie Goes to Bollywood*, *Starlight Express*, *Matilda*, *Burlesque*, *Why Am I So Single?*, *Hercules*, *My Fair Lady**, *The Children's Enquiry**, *Frozen**, *Billy Elliot**, *Les Misérables**, and *Annie** (* = child performer credit).



His students have also been accepted into top performing arts schools and universities across the UK, including RADA, The Guildhall, Arts Educational, Mountview, GSA, Emil Dale, The Urdang, Bird College, Italia Conti, and East 15.

Aaron holds two Master's degrees: one in Voice Pedagogy from the Voice Study Centre and another in Music Education from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance. His areas of study include Trans inclusive voice training, the effects of hormones on optimal vocal production (both adolescent and mature voices), breathing techniques for dancers, and performance coaching for high-level athletes.

He has taught at several prestigious drama schools across the UK while building a thriving private practice, working with actors from theatre, television, and film.

Committed to staying at the forefront of voice teaching, Aaron actively engages in ongoing professional development. He regularly participates in masterclasses, seminars, and workshops with leading experts in the field, ensuring that his students benefit from the latest advancements in voice pedagogy.

Helen Smee (Singing & *Carmina Burana* conductor)

Helen is a conductor, workshop leader and organist working regularly with choirs and music organisations of all shapes and sizes. Born in London, Helen holds degrees from the University of Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied Choral Conducting with Patrick Russill. Following a stint as Director of Frideswide Voices, the girls' choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and Acting Director of Music at Hertford College Oxford, she is now Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral in London.



Helen also works regularly as an assistant conductor with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, and is a co-founder, and now Artistic Director, of Voices of London, a week-long festival of choral music held each June. Passionate about widening access to music and the performing arts for young people, she is in demand as a workshop leader and choral advisor with a wide range of arts organisations. In 2018 she won the Members' Award from Action for Children's Arts in recognition of her outreach work with young people, and in 2021 was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Tim Morgan (Singing)

A member of the tenth edition of Les Arts Florissants' *Jardin des Voix*, Tim is a Samling artist and was a finalist at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards in 2019. In 2023 he was honoured to sing at the coronation of HRH King Charles III with The Monteverdi Choir under Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Highlights of Tim's upcoming performances include a recital of Britten's *Canticles* and Purcell arrangements with Julius Drake and Ian Bostridge at the Festival de Música y Danza in Granada; performances of Francesco Conti's *La Colpa Originale* directed by Dorothee Oberlinger at Festival Alte Musik Knechtsteden and the Guldener Herbst festival; a concert of Purcell and Vivaldi with The English Concert; Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with The Hanover Band; and *Partenope* (cover Arsace) with English National Opera.

Tim's recent opera and stage highlights include Britten's *Death in Venice* (voice of Apollo) in his debut with Welsh National Opera; Handel's *Partenope* (Armando) with Les Arts Florissants; the title roles in Handel's *Amadigi di Gaula*, *Giulio Cesare*, and *Agrippina* (Ottone) with English



Touring Opera; Samuel Adams's play *Gabriel* with The English Concert and Alison Balsom; Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon) with Nevill Holt Opera; and *Blaze of Glory* (cover Bryn Bevan) for WNO.

On the concert stage, Tim has appeared as a soloist in a film of madrigals by Monteverdi, and in a programme of Schütz and Schein with The Monteverdi Choir and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. He was soloist in Händel's *Messiah* with The English Chamber Orchestra and Nicholas Kraemer, and with Ensemble Polyharmonique at the Händel-Festspiele Halle. Further appearances include Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Stephen Layton (Polyphony); Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with La Nuova Musica; Purcell's *King Arthur* with Vox Luminis; and duet recitals with Michael Chance MBE.

Alongside his work in classical music, his other projects include the singing on the soundtrack of the film *Saltburn* directed by Emerald Fennell; collaborating with multimedia artist Young-Jun Tak in his work *Wohin?*; and recording for PJ Harvey's 2023 album *I Inside the Old Year Dying*.

Alex Jones (Singing)

Alex holds a Masters Degree in Vocal Studies from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he studied with Marilyn Rees, and was awarded a Distinction and a Concert Recital Diploma for outstanding performance in his final recital. He enjoys a varied career working across the UK and internationally with ensembles such as The Dunedin Consort, Britten Sinfonia and The English Concert amongst others. He recently travelled to Spain with the Armonico Consort to sing Aeneas in Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas* as part of the Peniscola Festival of Early and Baroque music.

Additionally his solo work has taken him throughout the country performing works from Bach to Verdi and everything in between. Last summer he Performed in Elgar's *The Kingdom* at the prestigious Three Choirs Festival, in Opera Holland Park's production of *Tosca* as Sciarrone and in Longhope Opera's production of *Don Pasquale* in the title role. He has recently finished a run with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford as part of their production of *Othello*. This season he will be reprising the role of Dr Dulcamara in Wild Arts's performances of Donizetti's *L'elisir D'amore* across the country, culminating in a performance at Opera Holland Park in August, and will be involved in this year's Proms with the BBC chorus of Wales.



Rhiannon Robinson (Singing)

Rhiannon Robinson is a mezzo-soprano, vocal coach and choral director based in Staffordshire.

During her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music and residence in Manchester, Rhiannon participated in various choral, musical theatre, and operatic endeavours which saw her tour internationally and perform in opera houses across the UK. As a workshop leader and vocal coach, Rhiannon has collaborated with many incredible companies including: Opera North and Grange Park Opera, with whom she introduced whole class singing sessions to numerous underprivileged schools across Greater Manchester.

She is now the Choral Director for Schools at Derby Cathedral, leading their *Music in Schools* and *Small Sounds* programmes which work with approximately nine hundred young people across the diocese.



Hayley Jenkins (Composition)

Hayley Jenkins is a composer who resides in Darlington, County Durham. Her compositions are predominantly written for chamber ensembles or soloists and explore the concepts of brevity and lyricism. Hayley has had the opportunity to collaborate with large organisations such as Streetwise Opera, working alongside community participants and artists and working closely with performers and ensembles, including the Delta Saxophone Quartet, pianist Duncan Honeybourne, and Plus Minus Ensemble.

Her music has been featured at the London Song Festival and Barnes Festival and played on BBC Radio 3, Kara Radio (Belgium), and Dizzy Atmosphere FM (Australia). Her most recent releases include her music on the Delta Saxophone Quartet's album *Late Music* (2023), released on Future Music Records, and Duncan Honeybourne's *Contemporary Piano Soundbites* (2020) on Prima Facie.



In addition to her career as a composer, Hayley works as a Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Sunderland and as Lecturer in Music at York St John University. Simultaneously, she is pursuing her PhD in Composition under the guidance of Dr Gareth Williams at the Reid School of Music, University of Edinburgh. Beyond academia, Hayley is also the Musical Director for the Darlington Clarinet Ensemble and Darlington Concert Band.

Leicester MusicFest Composition Competition



Scan to see our
2026-2027 syllabus

Submission period: 16th February - 1st December 2026

We welcome entries from **amateur composers of all ages and experience levels**. Whether you are taking your first steps in writing music, are studying composition as part of a GCSE/A-level/BTEC course, or already have an impressive portfolio to your name, we would love to hear your work.

New, expanded criteria*:

- We now welcome submissions for any combination of instruments and/or voices
- We accept a variety of notation formats, including staff notation, lead sheet and DAW

All entrants receive detailed written feedback from an industry expert. First Prize winners also receive an individual mentoring session.

*Scan the QR code to see our Competition Syllabus for full details

www.leicestermusicfest.com



Andrew Ashwin (Just For Fun classes)

Andrew studied Music at the University of Birmingham, then post-graduate singing at the Royal College of Music, graduating with Distinction. He continued his opera studies at the International Opera Studio in Belgium and the Zurich Opera Studio, before spending one year singing many baritone roles at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin. Highlights of his international freelance operatic career include the title role in the Austrian premiere of Britten's *Owen Wingrave* in Vienna, Mercutio in Opera Ireland's *Roméo et Juliette*, Maximillian in Vlaamse Opera's *Candide*, the title role in Lismore Music Festival's *Don Giovanni*, Junius in Frankfurt Opera's *The Rape of Lucretia*, and Danilo in *La Veuve Joyeuse*, Montpellier.

Andrew has sung numerous concerts and recitals across the UK, Europe, and further afield, including Mexico City, Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. He appears as a soloist on a number of opera and choral recordings, and he has sung much of the choral repertoire; highlights include Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* in Basel Cathedral, Handel's *Jephtha* in Oslo and Krakow and Mozart's *Requiem* at the Barbican, London. He is also in demand as a singer-pianist for functions and concerts.

For many years, Andrew was Musical Director of the Royal Academy of Music Chamber Choir (Junior Department). As a singing teacher and vocal coach, he is in high demand. He is a Fellow of the Royal Schools of Music (FRSM), and currently co-leads the singing activities across Leicester Grammar School Trust. He is also an ABRSM examiner, which has taken him around the country and to the Far East.



Andrew is a long-distance triathlete and ultra runner, and in 2022, his children's novel, *Drumendus: Mission to the Drum Planet*, was published.

Kirsty Body (Express Yourself workshops)

Harmonia Music was founded in September 1999 and is run by Kirsty Body B.Ed (Cantab). After several years as a primary teacher, Kirsty set up this exciting venture bringing a wide variety of music-making opportunities to people in Cambridgeshire and beyond. Over the years Harmonia has developed into a well-respected music business with many different strands.

Kirsty is a highly sought woodwind teacher, specialising in the first five grades for all woodwind, and up to Grade 8+ in her first instrument, bassoon. She runs singing groups including the fabulous Harmonia Singers women's choir, and has had great

success with the Harmonia Youth Singers and Young Singers, with many appearances at the National Festival of Music for Youth.

Kirsty has worked in many schools teaching woodwind, whole class instrument sessions (ocarina, samba, African drumming, keyboard, recorder, tin whistle) as well as general music curriculum, and is a former leading teacher for music for Cambridgeshire.



Current activities include Harmonia Singers, woodwind teaching, PhilHarmonia Orchestra (aimed at players up to Grade 5), wind band, African drumming workshops, and corporate team-building events.

Harmonia has become well known in more recent years for intensive ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory courses, attracting pupils from all over the UK and as far away as Canada, Istanbul and Bermuda! Kirsty has developed her own course booklet which has proved very successful. In her spare time Kirsty loves crochet and gardening, and is gradually covering all the footpaths of Cambridgeshire on her long walks.

Aric Prentice (STELLOS Organ Workshop)

Aric Prentice - Director of Music and Master of the Choristers - has been associated with music at Lincoln Cathedral since 2001. For the first ten years of his tenure as Director of Music, he was proud to direct the girl choristers and was responsible for the Lincoln girls achieving parity with the boy choristers in workload, opportunities, and benefits.

A former chorister of Durham Cathedral and Choral Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, Aric is a passionate advocate for the beauty of sacred choral music and the enormously enriching experience that it brings to everyone it touches.

Under his direction, the Choir of Lincoln Cathedral sings seven times each week, has broadcast frequently on radio and television, and has made numerous recordings. Aric also appeared as the conductor of Napoleon's coronation in Ridley Scott's 2023 Hollywood film *Napoleon*. He is the Principal Conductor of the Lincoln



Symphony Orchestra, with whom he has conducted more than forty works, including *The Planets*, *Scheherazade*, and many symphonies. He also regularly conducts the Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra.

In 2025, he was delighted to be appointed a Fellow of the London College of Music in recognition of his many professional achievements.

Looking ahead, Aric is preparing for an exciting 2026 season with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, including performances of Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8 in G*, Rachmaninov's *Second Piano Concerto* and Saint-Saëns' mighty *Organ Symphony*, which will be performed in Lincoln Cathedral.

Jude Richardson (Festival Accompanist)

Born in Bermuda, Jude's early musical upbringing was in Afro-American spirituals and hymns, but as a boy he became captivated by classical music after being gifted music CDs by family friends. Fascinated by music and performing, Jude began to teach himself the piano, and by age 13 he was playing a wide variety of advanced repertoire. After hearing Jude play Chopin's challenging *Fantasia Impromptu*, ex-jazz trumpeter and piano technician Carl Shechtman sought support for Jude through arts non-profits and scholarship programmes, securing funding for him to begin taking formal piano lessons at the Bermuda School of Music.

Thanks to the generosity of the Bermuda arts community, Jude was fortunate to go on to study music in Denver USA with professional pianist and professor Alice Rybak, who prepared him for university music auditions. He won the David & Barbara Jacobs Scholarship at the prestigious Jacobs School of Music, which further supported his studies with international competition-winning pianist Evelyne Brancart. Jude performed widely in Bermuda and the USA, including at Bermuda's Premier's Concerts (2014 & 2017), for Indiana University's Summer Piano Academy (2014-2018), and in countless other recitals, events and fundraisers.



Arriving in Leicester in 2022, Jude has performed as soloist with the University of Leicester Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Dr. Paul Jenkins, acted as accompanist to the University Chorus, and worked with student vocalists. He performed Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A minor* in June 2023 with the Rugby Rococo Players, and last year performed Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* with the Leicester Symphony Orchestra under Dexter Drown at De Montfort Hall. In addition to performing, Jude writes his own music and teaches piano at the University of Leicester and in schools around the county.

Jonathan Jarvis (Festival Accompanist)

Jonathan is a versatile musician who enjoys a portfolio career in music. Alongside work in the theatre, Jonathan is an accomplished accompanist for festivals, exams, auditions, and competitions. He also enjoys performing with smaller ensembles, including his jazz trio and improvisation group, *Ad Lib*.

Jonathan trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he graduated with a first-class Master's degree in Collaborative Piano and went on to become a Junior Fellow. Currently, he works as an ad hoc staff pianist, co-directing The American Songbook Company module and occasionally collaborating with students from the acting course. On graduating, Jonathan was selected as a Britten-Pears Young Artist.



Jonathan began his musical journey at the University of Huddersfield, where he earned his undergraduate music degree with first-class honors and was awarded the Rodwell Prize for Piano. It was during his time there that he developed a love for accompaniment and collaborative playing. Whilst a student there, he founded his first function band and gained valuable experience as a répétiteur for dramatic societies.

Jonathan maintains a thriving private piano studio and serves as Musical Director and

Vocal Coach for singers at the Leicester College of Performing Arts. His work extends to Curve Theatre, where he has acted as Musical Director for two youth theatre groups, preparing them for various productions.

As a session musician and arranger, Jonathan has recorded piano tracks ranging from video game soundtracks to song accompaniments, including the album *Final Fantasy Crystal Chronicles*, with his recent SATB arrangements being featured in concert performances.

In 2025, Jonathan was delighted to be Musical Director for LAOS's production of Sondheim's *Into The Woods* at Curve, Leicester as well as Keyboard player and music staff at Thursford's *Christmas Spectacular*. Alongside performing, Jonathan is also a co-founder and trustee of Leicester MusicFest.

John Gull (Festival Accompanist)

John is a collaborative musician and music educator based in Leicester, with a broad portfolio encompassing one-to-one teaching, group coaching, and community music. He has a background in church and cathedral music, having been a chorister at King's College, Cambridge, Organ Scholar at Corpus Christi, Oxford, and a tenor lay clerk at

Lincoln Cathedral. He has thirty years' experience as a singing teacher, with students regularly going on to study singing at conservatoire, with choral scholarships at Oxbridge, or to professional training choirs such as Genesis Sixteen. Several of his former students are now flourishing professional singers, including two currently on contract with the Royal Opera House.

John is a committed community musician, and very proud to be Chairman of Leicester MusicFest. As a small part of the fantastic Leicester MusicFest team, he has organised large-scale community music projects, and is passionate about creating opportunities for school and university students, adult amateurs and professional musicians to work together as a single musical community.

He currently conducts Leicester Pro Arte Singers, is Co-Director of English Martyrs' Schola Cantorum, is Director of Music at St Andrew's, Jarrom Street in the city centre, and Musician-in-Residence at Charnwood College in Loughborough.

As a repetiteur, John enjoys working with a wide variety of soloists, including artists with Waterperry Opera and City Music Foundation. He has a strong background in liturgical organ playing, and continues to perform as an organist for visiting choirs at cathedrals around the UK. He is a regular adjudicator for competitions, and appears regularly as guest conductor for choirs and orchestras around the Midlands. He is looking forward to conducting the Rugby Rococo Players again for their summer concert in July 2026. He also enjoys composing, and some of his original work has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3.



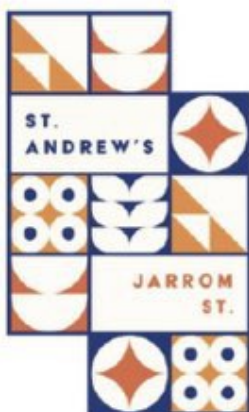
David Cowen (Festival Accompanist)

David Cowen has a varied career as a pianist, organist, and teacher. For over twenty years, he has taught piano at Loughborough Schools Foundation, and more recently has joined the staff of English Martyrs' Catholic School and Charnwood College.

A graduate of the University of Oxford, David pursued advanced studies in improvisation with Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin in Paris and was a finalist in international improvisation competitions in both Biarritz, France and Haarlem, Holland.

David is also Organist of Leicester Cathedral, where he accompanies the Cathedral Choir for five weekly services as well as concerts, recordings, and broadcasts.





St. Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street, Leicester

Organ Specification

Stephen Taylor & Son 1926

Kenneth J. Canter 1985

Aistrup & Hind 2025

PEDAL ORGAN

Violone 16
Bourdon 16
Gedackt 16
Bass Flute 8
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal
Choir to Pedal

GREAT ORGAN

Open Diapason 16
Open Diapason (No.1) 8
Open Diapason (No.2) 8
Suabe Flute 8
Principal 4
Flute 4
Mixture 12-15
Trumpet 8 (prepared)
Choir to Great
Swell to Great 16
Swell to Great 8
Swell to Great 4

SWELL ORGAN

Gedackt 16
Open Diapason 8
Stopped Diapason 8
Salicional 8
Celeste 8
Principal 4
Mixture
Horn 8
Oboe 8
Swell Sub Octave
Swell Octave

CHOIR ORGAN

Gedackt 8
Dulciana 8
Flute 4
Piccolo 2
Tierce 1^{3/5}
Larigot 1^{1/3}
Choir Sub Octave
Choir Octave
Swell to Choir

Six thumb pistons to the Great Organ, transferable onto Pedal toe pistons

Six thumb pistons to the Swell Organ

Four thumb pistons to the Choir Organ

Six toe pistons to the Pedal Organ

Six toe pistons to the Swell Organ

Six thumb General Pistons, transferable onto Swell toe pistons

8 lockable memories to Divisional Pistons

256 lockable memories to General Pistons

Stepper thumb pistons (forward & reverse), transferable onto coupler toe pistons

Great & Pedal Pistons Combined (reversible)

Reversible pistons to Great to Pedal (thumb & toe); Swell to Pedal (thumb & toe); Choir to Pedal;

Swell to Great; Swell to Choir

St Andrew's Church's newly-rebuilt organ

The 3-manual pipe organ at St Andrew's, Jarrom Street, Leicester was originally built in 1920 by Stephen Taylor & Son, the highly-regarded local firm noted for their robust instruments and classically-influenced tonal schemes. The organ was conceived as a substantial and expressive instrument employing tubular-pneumatic key action and offering a comprehensive specification across Great, Swell, and Choir manuals, with an independent pedal division.

Taylor was at the height of his powers, having recently completed the critically-acclaimed symphonic instrument at De Montfort Hall, and his superstar voicer, W. C. Jones (celebrated creator of the famous 'Harrison sound' in the previous decade) also brought his expert touch to the voicing of the organ at Jarrom Street. The layout and scaling reflect Taylor's characteristic emphasis on clarity and blend, with colourful resources supported by couplers on each manual. Jones' virtuosic voicing favoured articulate speech, balanced chorus work and strong foundational tone, making the instrument ideally suited to repertoire of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Having given good service for over sixty years, the organ was overhauled in 1985 by Kenneth Canter (Bury St Edmunds) on what was likely a rather tight budget. Despite Canter's attention and with steadily advancing years, general wear to the key action, stop action and the wind system increasingly affected the instrument's reliability and response, and by Easter 2025 a temporary digital organ had to be brought in to cover for the increasingly unplayable pipes.

In summer 2025, the organ was comprehensively restored by Aistrup & Hind (Lincoln). They replaced the pneumatic stop action with more powerful electric motors and stabilised the wind supply, while carefully conserving original pipework and voicing. The work has restored the instrument's tonal integrity, returning all its original colour together with a new standard of precision and responsiveness for the player. A suite of new divisional and general pistons, a digital sequencer, and 150 levels of memory, give the organ much greater musical flexibility and ensure its continued suitability for solo and ensemble performance at the heart of an exciting music program at St Andrew's.



Organ Competition

Saturday 31st January

Adjudicator: Joseph McHardy

11:00 O1 - Intermediate Organ Solo St Andrew's, Jarrom Street

Annette Meillon	<i>Celtic Alleluia</i>	C. Walker
Mikael Tristante	<i>Pasticcio</i>	J. Langlais
Xavier Menezes	<i>Meditation on 'The Infant King'</i>	D. Ratcliffe
George Alexander Ball	<i>Praeludium in C, BWV 553</i>	J. S. Bach
Jacqueline Liu	<i>Tuba Tune</i>	C. S. Lang

The winner of Class O1 will be presented with The Peter Collins Cup and will be offered the opportunity to perform on Leicester Cathedral's 4-manual Harrison & Harrison organ as part of the Cathedral's 2026 lunchtime recital series.

Saturday 31st January

Adjudicator: Joseph McHardy

12:00 O2 - Advanced Organ Solo St Andrew's, Jarrom Street

Kacper Jankowski	<i>Nun danket alle Gott</i>	S. Karg-Elert
Olin Aguilon	<i>Fanfare</i>	W. Mathias
Joseph Cross	<i>Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist</i>	G. Böhm
James Cowen	<i>Fugue in C, BWV 545</i>	J. S. Bach
Jacqueline Liu	<i>Postlude on an old Irish church melody</i>	C. V. Stanford
Daniel Macdonald	<i>Marche de Procession</i>	A. Guilmant
Easher Austin	<i>Toccata in F, BuxWV 157</i>	D. Buxtehude
Rafael Estrella	<i>Offertoire (en sol mineur)</i>	F. Couperin
James Cheng	<i>Adagio (Trio Sonata No. 1), BWV 525</i>	J. S. Bach
Inigo Tristante	<i>Nun danket alle Gott</i>	S. Karg-Elert

The winner of Class O2 will be presented with The Charles Blackham Cup and will be invited to perform at the Gala Concert on Sunday 15th February at English Martyrs' School. They will also be offered an opportunity to perform in Leicester Cathedral's 2026 lunchtime recital series.

Special thanks to the Royal College of Organists for supporting our organ events, and to Leicester Cathedral for providing recital opportunities for our winners.



Piano Competition

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Jonty Nowell

09:00	P1a - Foundation Piano Solo	MU1
Zaydan Tayub	<i>Sparkling Splashes & Smooth Water</i>	B. Arens
Aryan Acharya Ramsawak	<i>The Singing Swan</i>	A. Ffrench
Darcy Glenn	<i>103 East 86th Street</i>	Ringham & Ringham
Jacob Murphy	<i>Très Vite</i>	G. P. Telemann
Bethany Chau	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	H. Purcell
Mary Wheat	<i>In The Garden</i>	S. Maikapar
Sia-Lily Patel	<i>Spooky Wood Hollow</i>	H. Hammond
Joshua Glenn	<i>Titanium</i>	D. Guetta, arr. Hussey
Sami Sirur	<i>Sonatina in G (1st Movt.)</i>	L. van Beethoven
Brandon Harold Beeson	<i>Fireworks Minuet</i>	G. F. Händel
Rhys Mckendrick	<i>Sparkling Splashes & Smooth Water</i>	B. Arens

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Libby Burgess

09:00	P1b - Foundation Piano Solo	MU2
Yao Chen	<i>Andante (Symphony 94)</i>	J. Haydn
Hei Tung Ngai	<i>Long Long Ago</i>	T. H. Bayly
Flynn Staples	<i>Chattanooga Choo Choo</i>	Warren & Gordon
Genevie Cao	<i>Dotty's Nightmare</i>	D. Hidy
Archie Kennedy	<i>Cyberspace Detective</i>	A. Anand
Laurin Max Puntaier Zhu	<i>G for Glider</i>	J. Armstrong
Xihe Liu	<i>Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star</i>	French Traditional
Liliana Chmiel	<i>Study in F</i>	J-B. Duvernoy
Riyan Patel	<i>Imagine</i>	J. Lennon
Dhiya Vijayshankar	<i>Cloudy Day</i>	A. Norton
Khyath Bhambra	<i>Sparkling Splashes & Smooth Water</i>	B. Arens

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 have taken place at Leicester MusicFest since our
 first Festival in 2017!

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class



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www.harmoniamusic.com/music-theory

harmonia@btinternet.com

Piano Competition

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Libby Burgess

13:30	P2 - Elementary Piano Solo	MU1
Ana Stojanova	<i>Cloudscapes</i>	A. McDonagh
Sining Wu	<i>Invention in C, BWV 772</i>	J. S. Bach
Ethan Morjaria	<i>Midnight Rhapsody</i>	M. Bober
Eric Tang	<i>The Policeman's Song</i>	A. Sullivan
Lara Tucker	<i>The Spanish Guitar</i>	W. Gillock
Lydia Ganjali	<i>The Swan</i>	C. Saint-Saëns
Siya Anadkat	<i>Clowns</i>	A. Kabalevsky
Louis Dale	<i>Cloudscapes</i>	A. McDonagh
Yat Yin Hung	<i>Always With Me</i>	Kimura & Kaku
Isha Ladwa	<i>T-Rex Hungry</i>	S. Chua
Elizabeth Sophie Ball	<i>Flamenco</i>	W. Gillock
Aidan Lau	<i>Wallace & Gromit Theme</i>	J. Nott

The winner of Class P2 will be presented with The St John's Cup.

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Simon Lane

09:10	P3 - Intermediate Piano Solo	Auditorium
Ho Kyu Ng	<i>Sonatina, Op.20 (1st Movt.)</i>	F. Kuhlau
Rafi Sirur	<i>One Summer's Day</i>	J. Hisaishi
Leonardo Condron	<i>Someone You Loved</i>	L. Capaldi
Harrison Condron	<i>Foggy Blue</i>	N. Ikeda
George Alexander Ball	<i>Jazz Etude No.2</i>	M. Dvořák
Nathaniel Sze	<i>Last Song (from The Secret Piano)</i>	A. Ffrench
Johannes Sze	<i>My Neighbor Totoro</i>	J. Hisaishi
Lisa Tucker	<i>Invention in B^b, BWV 785</i>	J. S. Bach
Louisa James	<i>Valse, Op.69</i>	F. Chopin
Violet Dale	<i>Spilleværket</i>	C. Nielsen
Sophia Lau	<i>May Be</i>	Yiruma
Abigail Lily Pollard	<i>Sonata in G, Op.49 (1st Movt.)</i>	L. van Beethoven

*The winner of Class P3 will be presented with the Dr. G. M. Khan Memorial Cup
 and will perform in the Winners' Gala Concert on Sunday evening.*

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

Piano Competition

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Libby Burgess

10:50	P4 - Advanced Piano Solo	Auditorium
Yi Yi You	<i>Impromptu in A^b</i>	F. Chopin
Zhecheng Liu	<i>Nocturne in D^b</i>	A. Arensky
Zeyi Zhu	<i>Thunder in Drought Season</i>	C. Peixun
James Trivett	<i>Rêverie</i>	C. Debussy
Zoe Zeng	<i>Barcarolle in A minor, Op.26</i>	G. Fauré
Kacper Jankowski	<i>Prelude in G minor, Op.23</i>	S. Rachmaninoff
Lucia Zhu	<i>La Fille Aux Cheveux De Lin</i>	C. Debussy
Jin Chen Liu	<i>Polonaise in A, Op.40</i>	F. Chopin
Yingye Zhu	<i>Colourful Clouds Chasing the Moon</i>	W. Jian-Zhong
Samyucthaa Karthik	<i>Clair de Lune</i>	C. Debussy
Ethan Zeng	<i>Nocturne in D^b</i>	A. Arensky
Yvon Malika	<i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>	Queen

*The winner of Class P4 will be presented with The Jarvis Cup
 and will perform in the Winners' Gala Concert on Sunday evening.*



All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

Piano Competition

Saturday 14th February
Adjudicator: Jonty Nowell

10:30	P5 - Foundation Piano Recital	MU1
Hong Yu Kayle Luk	<i>Remember Me</i> <i>Cyberspace Detective</i>	Anderson-Lopez A. Anand
Liliana Chmiel	<i>Minuet in G</i> <i>Sailor's Song</i>	W. A. Mozart F. Swinstead
Mary Wheat	<i>Adagio</i> <i>Dance</i>	D. Steibelt A. Gedike
Shayan Lodhia	<i>Sparkling Splashes & Smooth Water</i> <i>Spooky Wood Hollow</i>	B. Arens H. Hammond
Brandon Harold Beeson	<i>Cyberspace Detective</i> <i>A Song of Erin</i>	A. Anand T. Dunhill
Sia-Lily Patel	<i>Suite de la Réjouissance</i> <i>Hedwig's Theme</i>	L-C. Daquin J. Williams

The winner of Class P5 will be presented with The Dr. J. A. Sirur Memorial Shield.



All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

Piano Competition

Saturday 14th February
Adjudicator: Simon Lane

15:30	P6 - Elementary Piano Recital	MU1
Elizabeth Sophie Ball	<i>Moon River</i> <i>Wilder Reiter</i>	H. Mancini R. Schumann
Edith Mae Gilmore	<i>Menuet & Trio in C, Hob. XVI:1</i> <i>Wallace & Gromit Theme</i>	J. Haydn J. Nott
Lok Ching Lam	<i>Allegretto</i> <i>Always With Me</i>	B. Bartók Y. Kimura
Aidan Lau	<i>Ballade</i> <i>Le Courant Limpide</i>	F. Burgmüller F. Burgmüller

The winner of Class P6 will be presented with The Tammy Burrow Memorial Cup.



All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

Piano Competition

Saturday 14th February
Adjudicator: Jonty Nowell

11:50	P7 - Intermediate Piano Recital	MU1
Sining Wu	<i>The Village in May</i> <i>La Tarentelle</i>	J. Hisaishi J. Burgmüller
Ni Ni You	<i>Invention in F</i> <i>A Carriage Rushing to the Party</i>	J. S. Bach C. Kuroda
Abigail Lily Pollard	<i>Jurassic Park Main Theme</i> <i>Spiritoso</i>	J. Williams M. Clementi
Louisa James	<i>Last Song</i> <i>The Bounce</i>	A. Ffrench Z. Rahman
Zirou Chen	<i>Waltz in B minor, D.145</i> <i>The Village in May</i>	F. Schubert J. Hisaishi, arr. Kawaura
Sophia Lau	<i>Arirang</i> <i>Hook's Hornpipe</i>	Trad. Korean, arr. Bullard N. Iles
Carly Zheng	<i>Stamping Dance</i> <i>Last Song (from The Secret Piano)</i>	B. Bartók A. Ffrench
George Alexander Ball	<i>Invention in E, BWV 777</i> <i>Jazz Etude No.6</i>	J. S. Bach M. Dvořák

The winner of Class P7 will be presented with The Barry Reeves Cup.



All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class



**Leicester
Symphony
Orchestra**

De Montfort Hall

**Sunday 29th March 2026
3.00pm**



FREE

Piano Masterclass
with Dominic Piers Smith
for 30 ticket holders
Grade 3 or above at
2.00pm.

Dominic Piers Smith plays: Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2

Conductor: Dexter Drown

Leader: Catherine Cole

- Shostakovich **Festival Overture**
- Rachmaninov **Piano Concerto No 2**
- Tchaikovsky **Symphony No 5**

TICKET PRICES:

Full price **£22/17**

Family tickets (up to 3 children) **£39-£50**

u18/NUS **£6**

2-4-1 carers scheme

Tickets available from: De Montfort Hall Box Office

www.demontforthall.co.uk

Tel: 0116 233 3111



Piano Competition

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Simon Lane

13:15	P8 - Advanced Piano Recital	Auditorium
Joseph Cross	<i>Nostalgia</i> <i>Fly Me To The Moon</i>	P. Wolf B. Howard, arr. Iles
Jacqueline Liu	<i>Prelude & Fugue</i> , BWV 881 <i>Nocturne</i> , Op.6 No.2	J. S. Bach F. Chopin
Daniel Macdonald	<i>Rondo alla Turka</i> <i>Lieder Ohne Worte</i> , Op.19 No.1	W. A. Mozart F. Mendelssohn
Ziwei Chen	<i>Pop Corn</i> <i>The Watermill</i>	A. Yuyama E. Kahn
Kacper Jankowski	<i>Prelude in C# minor</i> , Op.23 No.5 <i>Nocturne in E minor</i> , Op.72	S. Rachamninoff F. Chopin
Lee Qu	<i>Waltz in D^b</i> , Op.64 <i>Vignette</i>	F. Chopin P. Edis
Jin Chen Liu	<i>The Cat and the Mouse</i> <i>Allegro from Sonata in G</i> , Op.14	A. Copland L. van Beethoven
Louis Zhu	<i>Sonatine pour Yvette</i> No.3 <i>Transcendental Étude</i> No.4	X. Montsalvatge F. Lizst

*The winner of Class P8 will be presented with The Ebony Cup
 and will perform in the Winners' Gala Concert on Sunday evening.*

Fun fact! Leicester MusicFest has
 run 114 workshop sessions
 since we started in 2017!

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class



Junior Orchestra

1 - 2:30pm

Adult Orchestra

3 - 4:30pm

Richard Hill Primary School

Anstey Lane

Thurcaston

LE7 7JA

Violins, Violas, Cellos
and Double Bass players
all welcome!

For more information
please contact

Claire on 07305 211942

claire@totallystrings.co.uk

www.totallystrings.co.uk

Just For Fun Performances

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Andrew Ashwin

13:30	J1 - Just For Fun (First Steps)		MU2
Shreenika Mitra	Voice	<i>Ride On A Rainbow</i>	L. Marsh
Skye Shouler	Piano	<i>Do-Re-Mi</i>	Rodgers & Hammerstein
Darcy Glenn	Violin	<i>Hoe Down</i>	P. Martin
Archie Kennedy	Clarinet	<i>Muss i denn</i>	Trad. German
Riyan Patel	Piano	<i>Cant Stop The Feeling</i>	Timberlake, Martin & Schuster
Sophie Ouvry-Johns	Voice	<i>Cauliflowers Fluffy</i>	H. Mitchell
Isobel Kennedy	Piano	<i>On The Levee</i>	Traditional
Henry Trounson	Voice	<i>Where Is Love?</i>	L. Bart
Phoebe Dale	Piano	<i>Canon in D</i>	J. Pachelbel
Joshua Glenn	Piano	<i>Hug A Pug</i>	B. Arens

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Andrew Ashwin

15:10	J2 - Just For Fun (Junior)		MU2
Violet Dale	Violin	<i>William Tell</i>	G. Rossini
Lucy Trafford	Voice	<i>I See The Light</i>	A. Menken
Thomas Ouvry-Johns	Violin	<i>Sleep Song</i>	E. Humperdinck
Oliver Stocker	Vocal duet	<i>The View From Here</i>	L. Briscusse
Anna Macdonald	Violin	<i>Perpetual Motion</i>	K. Bohm
Mortimer Gull	Piano	<i>The Penguin Parade</i>	C. Donkin
Louis Dale	Violin	<i>Jacob's Dance</i>	K. & D. Blackwell
Neve Archer	Piano	<i>The Sheltering Sky</i>	D. Glynn

Did you know? Approximately 2500 samosas
 have been consumed at Leicester MusicFest
 over the last ten years!

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

Shostakovich
Piano Concerto No. 2
Symphony No. 5
Tchaikovsky Romeo & Juliet Overture

Sun 22nd March 2026 at 3pm

with award-winning piano soloist **Antonina Suhanova**
and conductor **Philip Ellis** from Birmingham Royal Ballet



WEST END
SPECTACULAR

Music from **Phantom, Wicked, Cats,**
Les Misérables, Hamilton and more

Sun 17th May 2026 at 3pm

From the West End, soprano **Shona Lindsay**
and baritone **Stephen John Davis**
with conductor **Ben Crick**

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Tickets from £17.50 with £6 tickets for 18 & Under/Students

Get more from the Bardi online



bardi.org.uk

Just For Fun Performances

Saturday 14th February
 Adjudicator: Andrew Ashwin

11:00

J3 - Just For Fun (Senior)

MU2

Becky Park	Voice	<i>Stars And The Moon</i>	J. Robert Brown
Olin Aguillon	Guitar	<i>Bagatelle No. 3</i>	W. Walton
Roswitha Hoedl-Ott	Voice	<i>Where'er You Walk</i>	G. F. Händel
Quentin Woodhouse	Voice	<i>It's Not Unusual</i>	Mills & Reid
Sophie Nicholls	Voice	<i>Times are hard for dreamers</i>	D. Messé
Maria Gonzalez Rodriguez & Elliott Compton	Guitar duet	<i>Vals Para Dos Guitarras</i>	F. Tárrega



All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

Singing Competition

Sunday 15th February
Adjudicator: Rhiannon Robinson

14:00	S1 - Elementary Solo Song (Junior)	MU2
Elodie Johnston	<i>Cockles And Mussels</i>	Trad. arr. Fowler
Martha Lumsden	<i>When I Grow Up</i>	T. Minchin
Thomas Ouvry-Johns	<i>The Lamb</i>	E. Poston
Ava Kelly	<i>The Dark Island</i>	I. MacLachlan
Jessica Fox	<i>Part Of Your World</i>	A. Menken
Ethan Jones	<i>Chim Chim Cheree</i>	Sherman & Sherman
Ciaran Sasar De Sain	<i>Any Dream Will Do</i>	A. Lloyd Webber
Lucia Zhu	<i>How Far I'll Go</i>	A. Cravalho
Grace Hartopp	<i>A Spoonful Of Sugar</i>	Sherman & Sherman
Phoenix Rose Wright	<i>If Only You Would Listen</i>	A. Lloyd Webber
Kiya Richards	<i>You're Never Fully Dressed</i>	C. Strouse
Agnes Konopka	<i>Naughty</i>	T. Minchin
Lucy Trafford	<i>Wouldn't It Be Lovely</i>	Lerner & Loewe

The winner of Class S1 will be presented with The Garlick Cup.

Sunday 15th February
Adjudicator: Tim Morgan

09:00	S2 - Intermediate Art Song Solo (Junior)	MU2
Yoela David	<i>New Year Carol</i>	B. Britten
Matilda Coles	<i>Sebben, Crudele</i>	A. Caldara
Olly Johnston	<i>The Water Is Wide</i>	A. Bullard
Michelle Welisane	<i>Song Of The Bluebell Wood</i>	B. Roe
Albert Ladkin	<i>Sebben, Crudele</i>	A. Caldara

The winner of Class S2 will be presented with The Geldart Cup.

Did you know? Our volunteer team gives over
3000 hours each year to make our Festival and
Outreach Programme happen!

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

Singing Competition

Sunday 15th February
Adjudicator: Tim Morgan

10:30

S3 - Advanced Art Song Solo (Junior)

MU1

Isaiah Bentley-Gouldstone	<i>Vergin Tutto Amor</i>	F. Durante
Shreya Bhat	<i>The Shepherd's Song</i>	E. Elgar
Sabina Lawton	<i>Nella Fantasia</i>	E. Morricone
Albert Ladkin	<i>Rune of Hospitality</i>	E. Rubbra
Aashna Sen	<i>Sweet Suffolk Owl</i>	E. Poston
James Cowen	<i>Mache dich, mein Herze rein</i>	J. S. Bach

*The winner of Class S3 will be presented with The Graham Green Cup
and will perform in the Winners' Gala Concert on Sunday evening.*

Sunday 15th February
Adjudicator: Aaron Alexander

12:00

S4a - Intermediate Stage & Screen Solo (Junior)

MU2

Katie Trafford	<i>Audition (The Fools Who Dream)</i>	J. Hurwitz
Joseph Kasongo	<i>Wake Up</i>	A. Preven
Annette Meillon	<i>Dream A Little Dream of Me</i>	Andre & Schwandt
Phoenix Rose Wright	<i>It Means Beautiful</i>	D. Gillespie Sells
Matilda Coles	<i>The Secret of Happiness</i>	P. Gordon
Ciara Daisley	<i>Reflection</i>	M. Wilder
Sofia Valadares Rodrigues	<i>Hopelessly Devoted To You</i>	J. Farrar
Kiya Richards	<i>Good Girl Winnie Foster</i>	C. Miller

The winner of Class S4a will be presented with The McCulloch Trophy.

Well I never! The auditorium seating is missing
two letters of the alphabet... and we once sold
tickets for these two rows that didn't exist.
Oops!

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

LOOKING TO JOIN A CHOIR?



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Saints, Loughborough
welcomes new
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choir!!



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Cathedral-style Choral Evensong

Does this sound like you?
Contact Simon Headley
music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk



Singing Competition

Sunday 15th February

Adjudicator: Aaron Alexander

14:00	S4b - Intermediate Stage & Screen Solo (Junior)	MU1
Michelle Welisane	<i>Cold Enough To Snow</i>	Menken & Schwartz
Sabina Lawton	<i>My House</i>	T. Minchin
Frankie Walker	<i>Tell Me It's Not True</i>	W.Russell
Tinka Cheung	<i>Quiet</i>	T. Minchin
Oliver Stocker	<i>A Letter From Charlie Bucket</i>	Shaiman & Wittman
Lucy Ball	<i>Hopelessly Devoted To You</i>	J. Farrar
Delilah Schamp	<i>What's Wrong With Me</i>	J. Richmond
Scarlett Stace	<i>What It Means To Be A Friend</i>	J. Robert Brown
Bebe Brown	<i>Home</i>	A. Menken

The winner of Class S4b will be presented with The Maisie Tompkins Cup.

Sunday 15th February

Adjudicator: Aaron Alexander

09:00	S5 - Advanced Stage & Screen Solo (Junior)	MU1
Tilly Barnard-Cruz	<i>On My Own</i>	Boublil & Schönberg
Tinka Cheung	<i>In My Dreams</i>	S. Flaherty
Charlotte-Grace Frisby	<i>Burn</i>	L-M. Miranda
Lucy Ball	<i>He's My Boy</i>	D. Gillespie Sells
Zachary Weston	<i>Empty Chairs At Empty Tables</i>	C-M. Schönberg
Lucy Gregory	<i>Requiem</i>	Pasek & Paul
Ciara Daisley	<i>A Story Of My Own</i>	Webborn & Finn
Jessica Gallagher	<i>Don't Rain On My Parade</i>	J. Styne
Anaida John	<i>Live Out Loud</i>	A. Lippa
Katie Trafford	<i>Still Hurting</i>	J. Robert Brown
James Cowen	<i>Something's Coming</i>	L. Bernstein
Delilah Schamp	<i>Burn</i>	L-M. Miranda

The winner of Class S5 will be presented with The Hugh Urry Cup and will perform in the Winners' Gala Concert on Sunday evening.

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class

St James the Greater Music



Junior Choir

Age 4-11 Boys and Girls
Fridays 4.30pm-5.45pm

Youth Choir

Age 11-18 All voice types
Choral Scholarships available for students in full time education
Fridays 6.00pm-7.15pm

Senior Choir

Age 18+ SATB
Choral Scholarships available for University students
Fridays 7.00pm-8.45pm



- Gain free training from professional musicians
- Improve your singing voice and learn to read music
- Earn medals from National Organisation: the RSCM
- Make friends and work as a team
- Get paid! (Youth Choir & students in Senior Choir)
- Go on choir tours in the UK and abroad



SMALL SOUNDS FREE preschool music sessions for 0-5's and their grown ups Mondays 10.30am in the Church Centre on St James Terrace

Recitals at St James Second Sunday of the month at 3.00pm

Pay as you feel with refreshments

Come & Sing Choral Evensong Sunday 22nd February 4.30pm-7.30pm

Come & Sing Show Songs Sunday 22nd March 2.00pm-5.00pm

Emma Tounson, Director of Music: DoM@stjamesthegreater.org.uk

St James the Greater Church, London Road, Leicester, LE2 1NE

Singing Competition

Sunday 15th February
Adjudicator: Helen Smee

10:30

S6 - Intermediate Solo Song (Senior)

MU2

Christopher Stocker	<i>Pure Imagination</i>	Bricusse & Newley
Zuzanna Boryczka	<i>Out Here On My Own</i>	M. Gore
Hannah Giles	<i>As Long As He Needs Me</i>	L. Bart
Daniel Creedon	<i>Heaven's Light/Hellfire</i>	Alan Menken
Barbara Paget	<i>The Bird's Lament</i>	R. Rodney Bennett
Lucy Gregory	<i>Rehab</i>	A. Winehouse

The winner of Class S6 will be presented with The Michael Rawnsley Memorial Cup.

Sunday 15th February
Adjudicator: Tim Morgan

11:30

S7 - Advanced Art Song Solo (Senior)

MU1

Charlotte Smith	<i>The Crucifixion</i>	S. Barber
Lancelot Sullen	<i>Una Furtiva Lagrima</i>	G. Donizetti
Daniel Creedon	<i>Danny Boy</i>	Traditional Irish
Shreya Bhat	<i>Sea Wrack</i>	H. Harty
James Cowen	<i>Fear No More The Heat O' The Sun</i>	G. Finzi
Christopher Stocker	<i>Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön</i>	W. A. Mozart

The winner of Class S7 will be presented with The Chris Bellamy Cup and will perform in the Winners' Gala Concert on Sunday evening.



Dido & Aeneas
2018

All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class



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music in 4 part harmony.**

Wednesdays 7.00pm-8.45pm

**Buckminster Road Baptist Church,
Leicester.**

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Singing Competition

Sunday 15th February
 Adjudicator: Alex Jones

09:30	S8 - Advanced Stage & Screen Solo (Senior)	Auditorium
Isaiah Bentley-Gouldstone	<i>Send In The Clowns</i>	S. Sondheim
Hannah Giles	<i>Being Alive</i>	S. Sondheim
Christopher Stocker	<i>You'll Be Back</i>	L-M. Miranda
Zuzanna Boryczka	<i>Stars And The Moon</i>	J. R. Brown
Daniel Creedon	<i>Music Of The Night</i>	A. Lloyd Webber
Claire Sullen	<i>So In Love</i>	C. Porter
Debra Cawrey	<i>Both Sides Now</i>	J. Mitchell
Emma Hearnden	<i>You Don't Know This Man</i>	J. R. Brown
Becky Park	<i>Back To Before</i>	S. Flaherty
Claire Marson	<i>As Long As He Needs Me</i>	L. Bart
Megan Lowe	<i>My Days</i>	I. Michaelson
Lucy Bleazard	<i>Flowers</i>	A. Mitchell

The winner of Class S8 will be presented with The Westcott Cup and will perform in the Winners' Gala Concert on Sunday evening.



All performers must be seated by the beginning of their class



Mondays
7.00pm-8.45pm



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Composition Competition 2026

Adjudicator: Hayley Jenkins

C1 - Composition (Junior)

1 st	James Cowen	<i>Death, be not proud</i>	Baritone Solo & Piano
2 nd	Easher Austin	<i>Black Heat</i>	Organ Solo
3 rd	Edward Black	<i>The Wanderer</i>	SATB & Piano

The winner of Class C1 will be awarded The Rotary Club of Blaby Cup.

C2 - Composition (Open)

1 st	Joseph Simpson	<i>Life Falls Apart</i>	Piano Solo
2 nd	James Trivett	<i>A Faraway Shell</i>	Piano Solo

The winner of Class C2 will be awarded The Blaby Rotary Club Trophy.

About the Leicester MusicFest Composition Competition

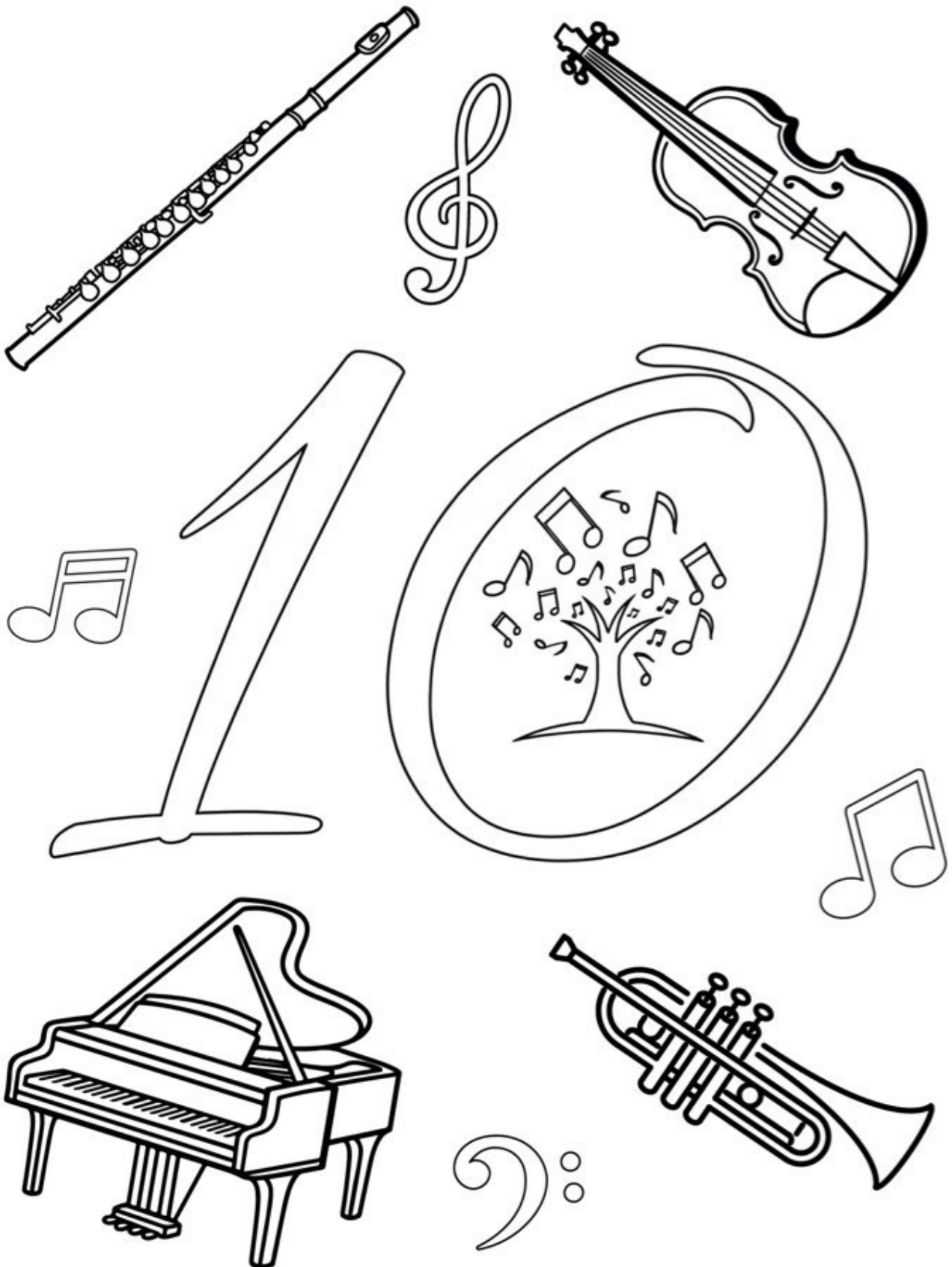
Musical composition is a very personal form of self-expression, and people come to it from many different routes. This year we have prioritised opening up our Composition Competition to promote more varied formats and writing processes, and to give more listeners the opportunity to engage with the winning pieces. Composers can now write for any instrument or ensemble, and can use varied notation formats: lead sheets and DAW recordings are welcome, as well as staff notation.

This much wider variety of formats makes it less feasible to perform the winning pieces live, so we have instead introduced a Listening Station at the Festival, as well as promoting the winning pieces on our website and social media channels. Please do go and explore these wonderful new pieces of music during your visit or online.

We have also introduced a new mentoring component to the prize: First Place winners receive a one-to-one Zoom mentoring session with our composition adjudicator; an opportunity to receive further personalised feedback and professional tips for taking their composition further.

We are very grateful to the Rotary Club of Blaby for helping us to set up our Composition Competition in 2021, and for sponsoring our two impressive Composition trophies.

Colouring page



Leicester MusicFest Crossword 2026

S I L V E R W I W A B I F R B Z J C M S M R
 J Q D O E V V F R V Q F C X X P Z W E Q V H
 R R M L R P E R F O R M W A Z V P A D L O G
 O P B C I O E S T I S N S G O H O L A F N R
 M X A C P K P H F O U O I L Q L N A P W F J
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 I W J O J T X C U E N Z R C J S N Q K L P Q
 C S T S S F G U E I A O E I F C L F R A I S
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 D O U T S A C W V I D E Q B Q J Q F W E N V
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 R C X U Z S J G G R S I N G I N G L S A D X
 G Z E T A C U D E T R L U V I Y A G O N K Z

Adjudicator
 Aeneas
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 Baroque
 Bronze
 Cecilia
 Classical
 Composition
 Concert
 Dido

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MARKET HARBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY

Musical Director: Emma Trounson

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**Soloists: Katy Dent - Soprano
Avalon Summerfield - Mezzo Soprano
Accompanist: Oksana King**

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METHODIST CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON ROAD,
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Come and Sing!
Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*
directed by Helen Smee



CARL ORFF

with first-half performances by selected competition winners

Sunday 15th February, 6pm, St Cecilia Auditorium,
English Martyrs' School, Leicester

HARRIET BURNS *soprano*
TIM MORGAN *countertenor*
ALEX JONES *baritone*
IAN TINDALE & RICHARD MOORE *pianos*
JACK GOODWIN & FRIENDS *percussion*
HELEN SMEE *director*

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Carmina Burana

A cantata by Carl Orff (1895 - 1982)

Soprano: Harriet Burns

Countertenor: Tim Morgan

Baritone: Alex Jones

Piano: Ian Tindale & Richard Moore

Percussion: Jack Goodwin & friends

Community Chorus:

Leicester MusicFest Chorus

Students of English Martyrs' Catholic School
and Sacred Heart Primary School

Director: Helen Smee

One of Leicester MusicFest's founding principles is the importance of engaging active professional performers as our competition adjudicators. All of our adjudicators understand well the particular challenges of getting up on stage to present a performance, and every year we aim to include events where some of our adjudicators perform themselves. Tonight's performance will feature an unprecedented number of our festival adjudicators: as soloists, at the piano, in the chorus, and as conductor. This opportunity for our festival goers, competition entrants, staff and volunteers to share the stage with our professional musicians, collaborating to perform inspiring music together, encapsulates what Leicester MusicFest is all about.

As well as collaboration, this project has also been about outreach to young people. Leicester MusicFest has worked with English Martyrs' School and Sacred Heart Primary School to deliver six in-school workshop sessions in the run-up to MusicFest, to introduce the children to the music and help them to prepare for tonight's performance. Many thanks to choral animateur John Gull (Leicester MusicFest) and collaborative pianist Jonathan Jarvis (Guildhall School of Music and Drama) for leading these workshop sessions, and to the schools for their enthusiasm and engagement in the project. We look forward to planning further community-based musical projects in future years.

Leicester MusicFest presents

10th Anniversary Gala Concert

featuring winners of the Leicester MusicFest 2026 competitions
and a performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*

St Cecilia Auditorium, English Martyrs' School
Sunday 15th February 2026 at 6pm

Prizewinning Performances

The first half of this evening's concert features a selection of winners from this year's Leicester MusicFest competitions, including pianists, organists and singers.

Composition Competition 2026

Medals and trophies will be presented for our annual Composition Competition. You can hear the winning pieces via our Listening Station in the foyer.

Interval of 20 minutes

Refreshments served in the foyer

**At the end of tonight's concert,
we warmly invite you to join us
for a drinks reception in the foyer to
celebrate 10 years of Leicester MusicFest**

Carmina Burana

Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi

1. O Fortuna
2. Fortune plango vulnere

I. Primo vere

3. Veris leta facies
4. Omnia sol temperat
5. Ecce gratum

Uf dem anger

10. Were diu werlt alle min

II. In taberna

11. Estuans interius
12. Olim lacus colueram

III. Cour d'amours

16. Dies, nox et omnia
17. Stetit puella
18. Circa mea pectora
21. In trutina
22. Tempus est iocundum
23. Dulcissime

Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi

25. O Fortuna

KINGFISHER CHORALE

The Sacred Cry

Janáček Mass in E Flat
Kodály Missa Brevis
Firsova Stabat Mater

Sacred Choral Music
Born From
The Human Will to Endure

Musical Director
Giles Turner

7.30pm 21st March 2026

Clarendon Park Congregational Church
Leicester, LE2 3BB

Tickets £18/£21 (£15 early bird)
£8/£12 students and children

7.30pm 28th March 2026

St Mary's Church
Melton Mowbray, LE13 1AE

KingfisherChorale.org



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About *Carmina Burana*

The title and texts of *Carmina Burana* were taken from a thirteenth century manuscript discovered in the monastery of Benediktbeuern in Bavaria by Johann Schmeller, who published it in 1847. Mixing ancient German and crude 'dog' Latin, it is very far from what you would expect monks to be writing, except perhaps on their toilet walls! These profane texts, as well as the gutsy, elemental music provided by Carl Orff, made the cantata a source of controversy from day one. *Carmina Burana* is musical Marmite - people either love it or hate it!

The texts are often crude, rude, and lewd, but they have a primitive, graphic power, offering a window into distant times - warts and all. The Latin poetry is bold and rhythmic, brought to life by Orff's pulsating score and dramatic word setting. The first and final movement, *O Fortuna*, has embedded itself in the popular consciousness through countless quotations in film and entertainment - and many will recognise it as the theme tune to ITV's *X Factor* talent show.

Orff's music is simple and robust, with muscular melodies, often delivered by vocal parts in unison. What makes his sound so exciting is the percussion section: Orff used a huge battery of percussion and applied it lavishly, giving a hard-edged sound appealing to our most primitive instincts.



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The cantata is made up of three sections or tableaux, prefaced by an 'overture' which is repeated in full at the end of the work. The three sections explore different aspects of human experience in their texts:

Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi (Fortune, Ruler of the World) portrays Man as the helpless slave of Lady Luck, who whimsically dispenses success and failure. As the Wheel of Fortune revolves, so the fortunes of helpless mortals wax and wane. The machinations of Fortune are a recurring theme throughout the work.

1. Primo Vere (In the Springtime) celebrates Spring, the rebirth of Life, and the re-awakening of Love. The first three numbers venerate the seasonal renewal of nature, leading to the fourth, *Uf dem Anger* (On the Green), which explores more specifically human passions.

2. In Taberna (In the Tavern) concerns the sinful dregs of humanity who shun the light of day, the embittered losers at Fortune's wheel who waste their lives drinking, eating, gambling, and... so on! This section concludes with the somewhat eccentric tale of a roasted swan, comically squawked by the countertenor soloist.

3. Cour d'Amours (Courtly Love) returns to the great outdoors, where Spring has sprung and all of Nature, both animal and vegetable, blossoms. Dies, Nox et Omnia is a tour de force for the baritone soloist, who has to span three vocal registers, while the soprano's virtuosity is displayed in the brief but evocative *Dulcissime*.

The return of *Fortuna, Imperatrix Mundi* as the 'postlude' is arresting, not only for its musical impact but also for the abrupt and shocking return of pessimism, just when the courtly love narrative had reached its climax.



Biographies

Helen Smee (Director)

Helen is a conductor, workshop leader and organist working regularly with choirs and music organisations of all shapes and sizes. Born in London, Helen holds degrees from the University of Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied Choral Conducting with Patrick Russill. Following a stint as Director of Frideswide Voices, the girls' choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and Acting Director of Music at Hertford College Oxford, she is now Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral in London.



Helen also works regularly as an assistant conductor with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, and is a co-founder, and now Artistic Director, of Voices of London, a week-long festival of choral music held each June. Passionate about widening access to music and the performing arts for young people, she is in demand as a workshop leader and choral advisor with a wide range of arts organisations. In 2018 she won the Members' Award from Action for Children's Arts in recognition of her outreach work with young people, and in 2021 was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Harriet Burns (Soprano)

Harriet Burns is in demand for her singing both in recital and on stage. An acclaimed interpreter of song, Harriet has performed at Wigmore Hall, Philharmonie Luxembourg and de Singel with Graham Johnson, Oxford International Song Festival with Imogen Cooper and Sholto Kynoch, Leeds Song with Joseph Middleton and Ryedale Festival with Christopher Glynn. Harriet regularly works with Ian Tindale, with whom she released *Schubert Lieder: Love's Lasting Power* and *A Short Story of Falling*, both with Delphian Records, to critical acclaim.

On the operatic stage, recent roles include Susanna (cover for the title role, Händel) for Opera North, Berta (cover, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Rossini) for West Green House Opera,



King Harald's Saga (Judith Weir) for Waterperry Opera, *Sifare* (cover, *Mitridate, re di Ponto*, Mozart) and *Oriana* (cover, *Amadigi*, Händel) for Garsington Opera. In concert, she has sung Thea Musgrave's Songs for a *Winter's Evening* with the Southbank Sinfonia and Gabriella Teychenné, Händel and Mozart arias with Michael Bawtree at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, Bach's *Magnificat* and Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus* with Nicholas McGegan and the Royal Northern Sinfonia at Sage Gateshead and Händel's *Messiah* with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

In 2023, Harriet was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. She is proud to be a singing teacher for Frideswide Voices, and a vocal coach at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Tim Morgan (Countertenor)

A member of the tenth edition of Les Arts Florissants' *Jardin des Voix*, Tim is a Samling artist and was a finalist at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards in 2019. In 2023 he was honoured to sing at the coronation of HRH King Charles III with The Monteverdi Choir under Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Highlights of Tim's upcoming performances include a recital of Britten's *Canticles* and Purcell arrangements with Julius Drake and Ian Bostridge at the Festival de Música y Danza in Granada; performances of Francesco Conti's *La Colpa Originale* directed by Dorothee Oberlinger at Festival Alte Musik Knechtsteden and the Guldener Herbst festival; a concert of Purcell and Vivaldi with The English Concert; Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with The Hanover Band; and *Partenope* (cover Arsace) with English National Opera.

Tim's recent opera and stage highlights include Britten's *Death in Venice* (voice of Apollo) in his debut with Welsh National Opera; Handel's *Partenope* (Armindo) with Les Arts Florissants; the title roles in Handel's *Amadigi di Gaula*, *Giulio Cesare*, and *Agrippina* (Ottone) with English Touring Opera; Samuel Adams's play *Gabriel* with The English Concert and Alison Balsom; Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon) with Nevill Holt Opera; and *Blaze of Glory* (cover Bryn Bevan) for WNO.

On the concert stage, Tim has appeared as a soloist in a film of madrigals by Monteverdi, and in a programme of Schütz and Schein with The Monteverdi Choir and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. He was soloist in Händel's *Messiah* with The English Chamber Orchestra and Nicholas Kraemer, and with Ensemble Polyharmonique at the Händel-Festspiele Halle. Further appearances include Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Stephen Layton (Polyphony); Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with La Nuova Musica; Purcell's *King Arthur* with Vox Luminis; and duet recitals with Michael Chance MBE.



Alongside his work in classical music, his other projects include the singing on the soundtrack of the film *Saltburn* directed by Emerald Fennell; collaborating with multimedia artist Young-Jun Tak in his work *Wohin?*; and recording for PJ Harvey's 2023 album *I Inside the Old Year Dying*.

Alex Jones (Baritone)

Alex holds a Masters Degree in Vocal Studies from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he studied with Marilyn Rees, and was awarded a Distinction and a Concert Recital Diploma for outstanding performance in his final recital. He enjoys a varied career working across the UK and internationally with ensembles such as The Dunedin Consort, Britten Sinfonia and The English Concert amongst others. He recently travelled to Spain with the Armonico Consort to sing Aeneas in Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas* as part of the Peniscola Festival of Early and Baroque music.

Additionally his solo work has taken him throughout the country performing works from Bach to Verdi and everything in between. Last summer he Performed in Elgar's *The Kingdom* at the prestigious Three Choirs Festival, in Opera Holland Park's production of *Tosca* as Sciarrone and in Longhoper Opera's production of *Don Pasquale* in the title role. He has recently finished a run with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford as part of their production of *Othello*. This season he will be reprising the role of Dr Dulcamara in Wild Arts's performances of Donizetti's *L'elisir D'amore* across



the country, culminating in a performance at Opera Holland Park in August, and will be involved in this year's Proms with the BBC chorus of Wales.

Ian Tindale (Piano)

"A wonderfully responsive and assured pianist" (*The Telegraph*), Ian Tindale is increasingly in demand as a specialist in song repertoire and chamber music, with partners on the song stage including Roderick Williams, Helen Charlston and Benjamin Appl. Highlights in 2025 include a return to the Aldeburgh Festival for a recital of Britten, Holst and Kidane with Nick Pritchard, and a recital at the Oxford International Song Festival with Soraya Mafi. Other frequent collaborators include James Gilchrist, Julien Van Mellaerts, Robin Tritschler, Ailish Tynan and Bethany Horak-Hallett.

Ian has performed at the Edinburgh International Festival and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and on BBC Radio 3 and the BBC World Service with BBC New Generation Artists tenor Santiago Sánchez and clarinettist Annelien Van Wauwe. Hailed as 'an articulate and sensitive partner' (*Opera Today*), other recital highlights in past seasons include at Salle Bourgie (Montréal), Palau de la Música (Barcelona),

and Het Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), and he has been invited to curate song recitals for the Ludlow English Song Weekend and the Samling Institute, both at the Wigmore Hall (London). His album of Schubert Lieder, *Love's Lasting Power* on Delphian Records with regular duo partner and soprano Harriet Burns was praised as 'a very fine disc indeed' (*Gramophone*) and received five stars from the *BBC Music Magazine*. Their second disc, *A Short Story of Falling*, will be released in summer 2025 and features two world premieres by Christopher Churcher and Derri Joseph Lewis.



In recent years, Ian has held roles as Official Pianist to the Wigmore Song Competition in London, the International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch, and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. Ian is also the founding Artistic Director of Shipston Song, an annual festival in the Cotswolds, UK, and he is a vocal repertoire and song coach at the Royal College of Music, London. Ian lives in Oxford with his partner, organist Richard Moore.

Richard Moore (Piano)

'A smouldering musician, with incredible rhythmic precision', Richard Moore has performed to audiences across the globe, from North America to Australia and New Zealand, as well as throughout Europe. Concerto appearances have included Lou Harrison's *Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra* (collaborating with conductor Thomas Søndergård), and amongst recent recording projects is a first recording of Elizabeth Poston's *Te Deum (Praise him with trumpets)* (Hilary Campbell and Bristol Choral Society, Delphian 2025) and the premiere of Philip Moore's devotional sequence, *Via crucis* (Convivium, 2023).



Richard is Sub-Organist at Christ Church, Oxford, where he articulates the liturgies of the Cathedral and is Deputy Conductor of the world-renowned Cathedral Choir. Before moving to Christ Church he was Sub Organist at Guildford Cathedral where in addition to acting as Deputy Conductor for the Cathedral Choirs he accompanied the choral foundation in liturgies, recordings, and broadcasts, under the direction of Katherine Dienes-Williams.

A prize-winning graduate of the Royal College of Music, where he studied organ with David Graham and improvisation with Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, Richard also read

Music as Organ Scholar of St John's College Oxford, studying with ethnomusicologist Martin Stokes. Whilst at the RCM he was involved in the Historical Performance department, including the 24 Violons du Roi project, which culminated in an appearance at the 2012 BBC Proms. During this time, Richard was also the William and Irene Miller Organ Scholar at St Paul's Cathedral (2011-2013), where, in addition to playing for services and training choristers, he also played at a number of important occasions, including the funeral of Baroness Thatcher. After leaving St Paul's, he spent a year as Acting Assistant Organist of St Martin-in-the-Fields, where he was custodian of the important Walker organ, and accompanied the three principal choirs in a varied liturgical and concert programme, and on BBC Radio 3 and 4. A highlight of his time at St Martin's was the service to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VJ Day, which took place in the presence of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and was broadcast on BBC television.

Beyond his duties at Christ Church, Richard is one half of the Trumpet and Organ duo "Illumina", whose *Illuminations, Dances, and Poems* recording (Convivium, 2017), received 4 stars in *Organists Review*. A 'technically very confident' musician who finds 'fine colours' on the organ, Richard studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Music with Bine Katrine Bryndorf and holds the Soloist Diploma of the Royal Danish Academy of Music. Committed to the belief that music is a constant dialogue between scholarship and performance, Richard is active as a researcher and writer. His interests include British organ culture in the second half of the twentieth century, and currently he is working on the organ music of Ethel Smyth. He is a trustee of the Arabesque Trust, a charity which supports visually-impaired organists, and sits on the steering committee of the British Organ Archive.

Jack Goodwin (Percussion)

It has been a joy to work with the Leicester MusicFest team these past few years; I have accompanied the choir projects and played in the "house band" for the improvisation workshops. I look forward to being involved in the 10th Anniversary Festival in February 2026.

I have been playing the drum kit for 21 years. As a student I studied and performed with ensembles in Leicestershire Arts in Education (Leicestershire School's Music Service) before going on to study a BA (Hons) in Creative Musicianship at university. Four years ago, I became a self-employed peripatetic teacher, and have been teaching one-to-one drum kit lessons in schools around Leicestershire ever since. I also perform with various bands & songwriters playing a mixture of original music and covers of famous songs.

As well as working with Leicester MusicFest, I am also involved with a community-run record label based in Market Harborough called Somewhere Records; where I volunteer my time to help with weekly meetings and creative output of the record label.

